

# The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, April 28, 1988

Published Since 1877

## Baptist students

# Humility key to leadership

The three most essential qualities of leadership are "Humility, humility, and humility," according to Jerry Young, speaker at the recent Baptist Student Union Leadership Training conference at Gulfshore.

The annual training meeting for BSU leaders, which drew right at 500 college students from 27 campuses across the state, included spiritual messages, specialized leader training, and a commissioning of 58 student missionaries.

These students will be serving in six foreign countries and most of the 50 states. Their entire expenses are paid by their fellow student who raise the money themselves.

Young, pastor of New Hope Baptist Church, Jackson, told the students that Jesus takes all the stuffiness out of leadership, noting that a person has to bend over to wash another's feet. He also said that leadership is teamwork. "True leadership is not doing the work of eight people, it is encouraging eight people to do their work."

Duane McDaniel, minister to single adults at Parkway Church, Jackson, said that God revealed his power to a world that was despicably rebellious. "He didn't drop a bomb on us, he dropped a baby on us" said McDaniel.

McDaniel, giving the challenge to the new student missionaries, said the power of the gospel gives to people the power to know God, the power to manage their lives, and the power of serving love. He told the story of a vision of hell where all inhabitants had bread in their hands, but whose elbows couldn't bend. No one was eating. The vision of heaven still had unbendable elbows, but the inhabitants were feeding one another.

Closing speaker Emery Smith, director of the South Carolina BSU work, told of contributions a person could make to the work of the church even when not expecting to do so.

Smith said a student from Mississippi College wanted to preach during his summer assignment, but Smith, who formerly worked in the special missions ministries office of the Home Mission Board which made summer assignments, placed him in resort work.

The young man had only 10 minutes each Sunday to preach. The rest of his time was in such as organizing Bible studies, campfire services, and father and son games. He met a camper, visited in the campsite with his family, even asked the blessing a couple of times in shared meals, each time



Student missionaries are commissioned by their fellow students.

sharing the message of Jesus Christ with the family.

The family pulled up stakes before the week was over without a good-bye and the summer missionary thought he'd seen the last of them until the father returned a short time later.

He'd come back to tell the young man that the family had come camping to tell their children that they were going to get a divorce. He said the missionary had reminded them of their original commitments and that the couple had decided to get counseling and to stay together.

The summer missionary reported back to Smith that "loving people and sharing who I am is preaching enough."

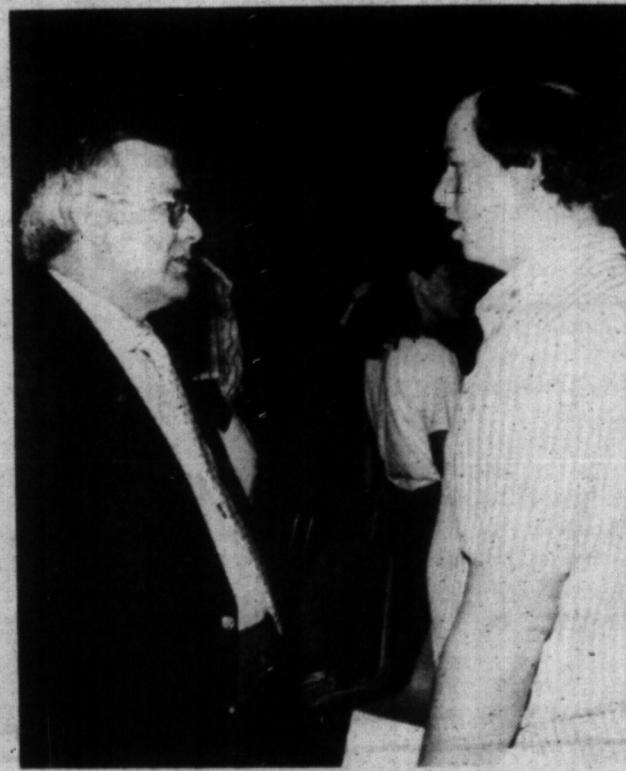
Story and Photos  
by Tim Nicholas



Cindy Townsend, music leader for the conference, gets a musical hand from two young people from Louisiana. The two are Corey DeHart and Russell Lovell, both of Thibodaux, La. They were the most recent converts to Christianity at LTC, won by a BSU missions team from Mississippi State. Mrs. Townsend is minister to youth, First Church, Jackson.



The group, Drawn Together, from Mississippi State, sings while the suspended Ken Hester leads in hand movements for the audience.



Closing speaker Emery Smith, director of BSU work in South Carolina, talks with Jimmy Bates, a student at Itawamba Community College.



These are the 1988-89 officers of Mississippi Baptist Student Union. From left they are Steve Odom, pastor advisor, University Church, Hattiesburg; Betty Jane Frew, director advisor, Hinds Community College; Kinsey Goldman, executive committee, East Central Junior College; Cindy Rachel, executive committee, Gulf Coast Community College; Melanie Buntyn, executive committee, University of Mississippi; Darbie Pope, secretary, Holmes Junior College; Charles Mullins, president, Mississippi College; Bobbie King, vice president, Blue Mountain College; Jerry Merriman, state director; and Weaver McCracken, state associate. Jerry Reed, faculty advisor from Mississippi State University, is not pictured.

# Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

## The postage increase

It appears that with the postage increase that took effect on April 3, the Baptist Record's postal bill will increase almost \$900 per issue. This would be an increase of more than 15 percent.

The postage rate has been a seesaw ride since 1982. There continues to be a promise that it will settle down, but it doesn't. There was a promise that it wouldn't go up before October of this year, but it did.

There are a number of factors affecting the postage. One is the federal budget, for there is what is called a revenue foregone subsidy that goes to all second-class, nonprofit mailers.

The idea is to replace that money that would be coming in if the papers were to be charged the regular second-class rate.

The Postal Rate Commission and the Board of Governors also make

decisions that affect the postage rate. The federal budget has nothing to do with their decisions.

In 1970 the second-class, nonprofit mailers were heavily subsidized; and mailing costs were minimal. Congress decided that each paper should pay its attributable costs, that is, what it cost to mail it. The rate was a long way from that figure, so a 16-step program was established to have the papers paying their attributable costs by 1987. We have reached that point, and now it seems that we may go beyond. Promises don't mean much when one is dealing with the government, for those who make the promises change with every election.

At any rate, we were at step 11 in 1982 when the President decided to cut out the phase-out program and move the postage rate past step 16 immediately. That meant that the postage rate jumped tremendously

overnight. Eight months later the Baptist Record raised its subscription rates to their present levels.

Immediately the revenue foregone subsidy was restored and the postage rate went down to less than it had been before. We knew it wouldn't last, however, and left the subscription rates as it was, figuring it would be better to keep it even than to have it going up and down. As a result, there were substantial savings; and sizeable sums of money went back into the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's fund balance. The 16-step phase-out program got back on track

We have held the line on rate increases to this point and have no immediate plan to make a change. We have had a tremendous increase in postage, however. It is too early to tell exactly how it will impact budget expenditures.

## Guest opinion . . .

## Civil rights law's impact on churches exaggerated

By Oliver Thomas

They shut down the Senate telephone system. Thousands of callers who had been told their churches would be forced to hire homosexuals and drug addicts were expressing their concern. The "villain" was the Civil Rights Restoration Act — a law designed to overrule the 1984 Supreme Court decision in Grove City College v. Bell.

The court in Grove City had scaled back the reach of federal anti-discrimination laws by limiting their application to the specific programs or activities of an institution receiving federal funds. The decision meant that a college or university could receive millions of dollars in federal aid for scientific research and still deny women, minorities, the elderly, and the handicapped admission to its college of business, for example.

Prior to Grove City, three presidential administrations (two Republican and one Democratic) had interpreted anti-discrimination laws as applying to all the programs and activities of an institution that received federal funding.

Proponents of the new law said it merely would restore the pre-Grove City interpretation. Opponents, including the president, called it a "big government power grab" that would result in wholesale regulation of small businesses, farmers, and even churches and synagogues.

Despite an intense lobbying campaign and a presidential veto, Congress passed the bill by substantially more than the required two-thirds

majority. With the new law now in effect, what can Baptists expect?

Interestingly, most Baptist churches need not expect anything to happen, as the act applies only to organizations that receive federal funding. Baptists generally agree that tax dollars should not be used for the support of religion, and they have been unwilling to "secularize" a particular program of the church in order to receive federal funds.

A great deal of misunderstanding exists over what constitutes federal funding so as to trigger their anti-discrimination laws. Pell Grants, Guaranteed Student Loans, the GI Bill, and Title XX day care vouchers are considered federal funding. Tax exemption, Social Security checks, food stamps, and farm subsidies are not.

The committee report accompanying the new law makes this clear. In addition, the act contains a "small providers" exemption for all businesses employing fewer than 15 persons. Therefore, the "mom and pop" grocery store will not be required to install ramps, rails, and other facilities for the handicapped.

Even if a religious institution receives federal funding, it will not be forced to hire homosexuals. None of the laws affected by the act has been interpreted to prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation.

Nor will any hospital be forced to perform abortions. The Danforth amendment overrules the Title IX regulations that had placed abortion

on an equal footing with other medical disabilities. Therefore, no institution will be forced to provide abortion-related services simply because it receives federal funds.

The Southern Baptist Convention's only resolution on the Civil Rights Restoration Act was one adopted last June in St. Louis calling for "vigorous support" of the Danforth amendment. (The Christian Life Commission and the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs lobbied successfully for its passage.) The resolution did not indicate opposition to the bill if the Danforth amendment were passed.

A religious organization's right to discriminate on the basis of religion in employment is unaffected by the act even if the organization receives federal funds. If, for example, a church wishes to hire only born-again Christians in its federally funded day care program, it may do so under current law.

Churches should note, however, that they may give up the right to discriminate on the basis of religion in hiring child care workers if the Act for Better Child Care, currently under consideration by Congress, is passed. Much like the Civil Rights Restoration Act, this bill would apply only to organizations that participate in the proposed federally funded child care program.

The act also maintains the long-standing exemption from sex discrimination laws for any educational institution "controlled by" a religious organization if the applica-

tion of the act to that institution would violate its religious tenets. Fortunately, this exemption has been interpreted broadly to include even institutions that are indirectly controlled by the churches.

Thus, separately incorporated Baptist colleges that have their trustees appointed by a state Baptist convention have received exemptions. In fact, in the 16 years that the religious tenets exemption has been in ex-

sistence, not a single religious institution has been denied an exemption.

Despite the favorable interpretation that has been given to this exemption, the BJCRA advocated a broadening of the "controlled by" language. The effort failed, largely because no institution has yet been denied an exemption. If a legitimate request for an exemption is denied in the future, the BJCRA has laid the groundwork for corrective legislation.

(Continued on page 6)

## Letters policy

The Baptist Record has altered slightly its policy on Letters to the Editor.

All of the Baptist state papers have a letters policy just about the same as we have had at the Baptist Record and administered in about the same way. But we are going to make ours a bit more restrictive than it has been. As has been the case all along, we will not consider letters that are not signed and that do not provide an address. Also, we will continue to give preference to letters from Mississippi writers.

In the future in just about every instance letters will not be run without the name of the writer being published with the letter. All state papers have a policy of allowing letters to run with the name withheld on request, but we will be enforcing a more strict policy immediately. The final decision will still be made by the editor, but

generally those letters dealing with a subject that is not personal for the writer will bear the writer's name if they are published. Should the writer be writing from a deep personal experience, consideration will be given to publishing the letter without using the name of the writer.

The editor approached the Baptist Record Advisory Committee with the need for a change, and the committee adopted these guidelines.

We feel the need for readers to have the availability of a forum, and we want to continue to make such a forum available. In the future, however, the writer's name will be provided in almost every instance. We hope readers will understand and appreciate the change.

The 300-word maximum will still apply, and writers will not be able to attack another individual.

## The Baptist Record

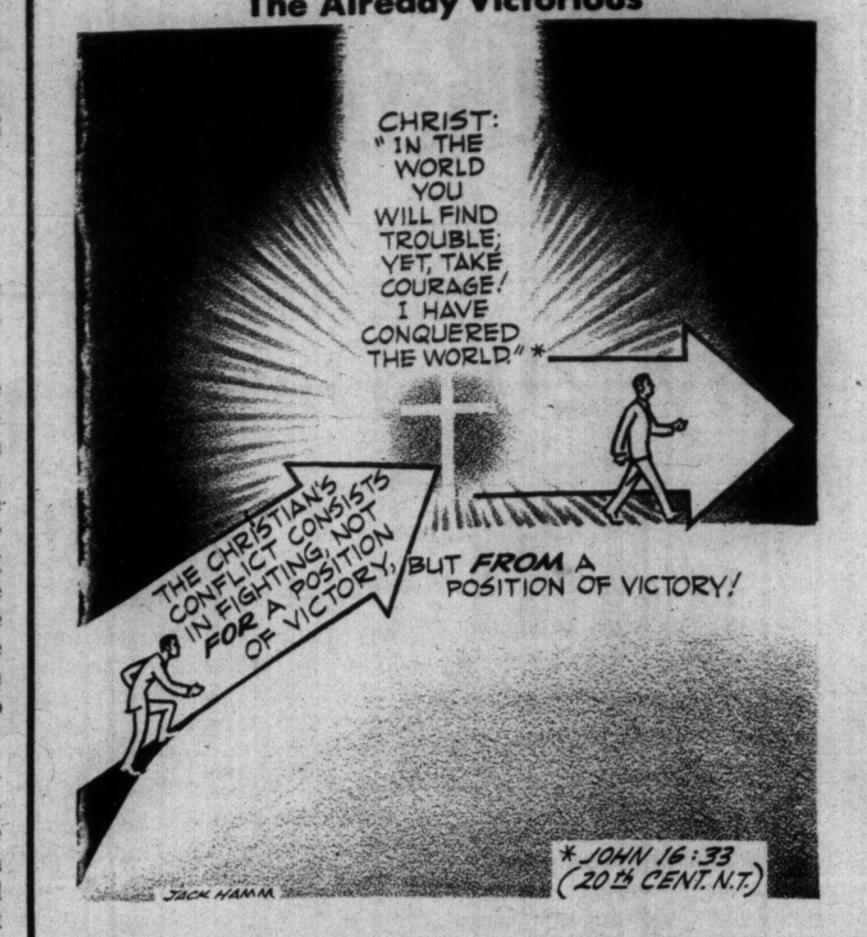
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## May 20: Day to pray, fast for world evangelization

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — What difference can a day make? A world of difference, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board leaders believe.

May 20 has been designated as a day of prayer and fasting for spreading the gospel worldwide.

Leaders of global evangelization efforts by Southern Baptists and 19 other Christian groups emerged from a meeting last fall calling for "focused" prayer before Pentecost Sunday, from 6 p.m. Friday, May 20, to 6 p.m. Saturday, May 21.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Foreign Mission Board, has hopes of "saturating the world with an unbroken global prayer chain."

"Let us pray especially for those people groups who have virtually no witness and have never heard the good news of salvation," he wrote in the April issue of the Foreign Mission Board's Commission magazine.

More than 1,000 ethnic-linguistic people groups worldwide — some numbering in the millions — are less than 1 percent Christian, according to Foreign Mission Board research estimates. More than 2,500 people groups are less than 10 percent Christian.

More than 15 million Kurds, for example, live in Turkey, Iran, Iraq, Syria and the Soviet Union — countries where missionaries cannot reside — and the vast majority of Kurds have never heard the gospel.

Many other unreached people groups are in China and India, which also are closed to traditional missionary presence.

Another key prayer theme suggested by Parks is "for the Holy Spirit to be poured out on all his people who are witnessing around the world . . . for laborers for Christ to inundate the world."

"Let us pray that churches will be burdened with a sense of responsibility," Parks wrote, "to continue praying, giving, sending and going."

What is fasting? Roy Fish, professor of evangelism at Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in Fort Worth, Texas, noted in The Commission:

Fasting in the Christian context is simply abstaining from food for spiritual reasons. At times it means abstinence from drinking liquids as well — a total fast for a brief period.

"In the New Testament, Jesus inaugurated his own ministry with fasting," Fish wrote. "He taught his followers at least twice to fast." The Apostle Paul fasted after his Damascus Road conversion and often thereafter, the professor added.

Summarizing the biblical record of fasting, Fish wrote: "Fasting was an expression of affliction and sorrow. Fasting was seen as a way to secure God's promised blessing. Fasting is evidence of repentance. Fasting intensifies prayer efforts. Fasting may change the mind of God. Fasting can bring release to people in spiritual bondage."

Christians must not neglect apostolic practices such as fasting if they hope "the winds of the Spirit will blow in powerful revival again," Fish noted.

One caution was sounded in The Commission: "Consult your physician to see if fasting is in keeping with your overall health. If you have questions concerning your medical health, any difficulty due to a diabetic condition or other medical problems, you may want to observe only a partial fast."

Art Toalston writes for FMB.

## Foreign Mission Board appoints five persons with Mississippi ties

RICHMOND, Va. — William and Violet Hales were among 38 people named missionaries by Foreign Mission Board April 12 at the Greensboro (N.C.) Coliseum. They and three others are Mississippians.

As missionary associates the Halees will live in The Gambia, where he will direct a community center.

Since 1984 he has been food service supervisor at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in North Carolina. They are members of Ridgecrest Baptist Church. They are former members of Friendship Church, Aberdeen, Miss., and First Church, Jackson, Miss.

Born in Flora, Miss., Hales is the son of Eva Lillian King of Jackson, and the late James A. Hales. While growing up he also lived in Jackson and Terry, Miss. He considers Jackson his hometown. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Lincoln Memorial University, Harrogate, Tenn.

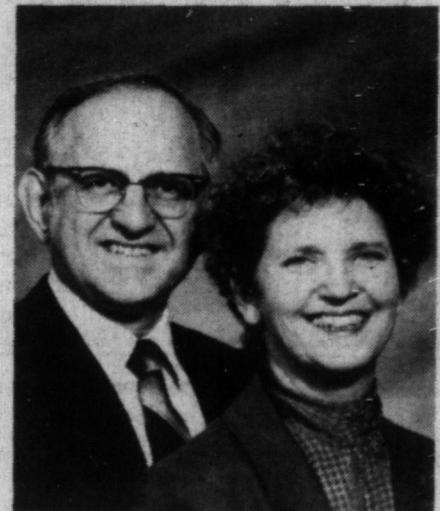
He served in the U.S. Air Force. He

has worked in sales and management for a yard and garden agency and was a state employment counselor, both in Jackson; a supervisor for industrial relations at a steel shipyard in Beaumont, Texas; a state employment office manager in Aberdeen; and a parent and teacher at a home for girls in Jackson.

(Continued on page 4)



Betty Barham



Joe and Ann Baskin



Violet and William Hales

## Baptist leads JOG 2000

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — The head coach of Super Bowl champions Washington Redskins, Joe Gibbs, a Southern Baptist, is leading a standout team of Christian athletes and coaches from around the country who have endorsed Student Venture's first annual JOG 2000, a fundraiser that will be held in ten cities on May 7.

Gibbs is serving as honorary chairman of JOG 2000, which will raise money to fund Student Venture's goal of reaching one million young people a year for Christ between now and the year 2000.

Other members of the JOG 2000 National Endorsement Team are Jerry Colangelo (president and CEO of the Phoenix Sun), Dave

Dravecky (pitcher for the San Francisco Giants), Greg Gagne (shortstop for the world champion Minnesota Twins), A. C. Green (forward for the world champion Los Angeles Lakers), Bill McCartney (head football coach at the University of Colorado), Warren Moon (quarterback for the Houston Oilers), Anthony Munoz (1987 Lineman of the Year for the Cincinnati Bengals), Reggie White (1987 Defensive Player of the Year for the Philadelphia Eagles), and Wade Wilson (quarterback for the Minnesota Vikings). Cities participating in JOG 2000 are Boulder, Chattanooga, Dallas, Houston, Philadelphia, Phoenix, Portland (Ore.), Riverside (Calif.), San Diego, and Minneapolis-St. Paul.

## FMB votes to buy Bible institute in S. Africa

CISKEI, South Africa (BP) — The Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board will buy a Bible institute in South Africa, clearing a way to work with the all-black Baptist convention in the racially troubled nation.

The Baptist Bible Institute in Ciskei, South Africa, has offered the only affordable theological training for most blacks in southern Africa. But the non-black Baptist Union of South Africa, which owns the school, says it must either sell or close for financial reasons.

Representatives of the Foreign Mission Board and union have agreed on a price of \$235,000 to \$310,000, depending on the value of an American dollar at the time of sale. The board voted April 13 to proceed with the purchase.

Personnel should be in place at the school by Jan. 1, 1989, said John Faulkner, director for the board's operations in eastern and southern Africa.

The purchase of the institute offers the Foreign Mission Board its first opportunity to work formally with the Baptist Convention of South Africa, comprised of black churches.

Until now, Southern Baptist missionaries have worked primarily

through the Baptist union, with whites; coloreds, South Africans of mixed race; and Indians. South Africans have identified the missionaries mostly with whites because they entered the country at the union's request, Faulkner said.

The institute's enrollment now stands at 29. Faulkner said he hopes as many as 50 students will live on campus and attend classes by the end of 1989. Southern Baptist missionaries in the area assigned to theological education have set a goal of 200 other students enrolled in a network of Theological Education by Extension centers organized through the institute.

Extension centers would be located in seven other locations inside and outside South Africa.

Without the school, theological education for blacks in southern Africa would be almost impossible, Faulkner said. Students attending the institute amounts to less than a fifth of the cost of tuition alone at theological colleges in the area.

The four faculty members to work at the institute will include two veteran missionaries and two national Baptists, Faulkner said.

## Nominations for boards asked by state committee

Persons interested in making a nomination to Mississippi Baptist Convention boards, commissions, and agencies are invited to do so by writing to the Committee on Nominations, in care of the executive director's office, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Members of the Committee on Nominations choose nominees for the Convention Board, Education Commission, Historical Commission, Christian Action Commission, Baptist Children's Village, Board of Ministerial Education, Baptist Foundation, Blue Mountain College,

Mississippi College, William Carey College, Mississippi Baptist Medical Center, Baptist Memorial Hospital, and any other group referred to it by the convention.

These nominees are then elected by messengers to the Mississippi Baptist Convention in November.

A nomination form is available from the executive director's office which asks for general information on the capabilities and eligibility for the person nominated.

Members of the Committee on Nominations are: Bill Causey, chairman; Mrs. Pattie Dent; Ed Deuschle; David Spencer; and Roger Johnson.

# Foreign Mission Board approves 64 journeymen

RICHMOND, Va. — The Foreign Mission Board has approved 64 young adults for training as journeymen. Seven have Mississippi connections.

The college graduates, who are under age 27, represent the 28th Southern Baptist group selected to work overseas since the journey-

Gentry men program began in the mid 1960s. Journeymen work two years alongside career missionaries, sharing missionary duties that can be accomplished in English and freeing missionaries to carry out more crucial assignments.

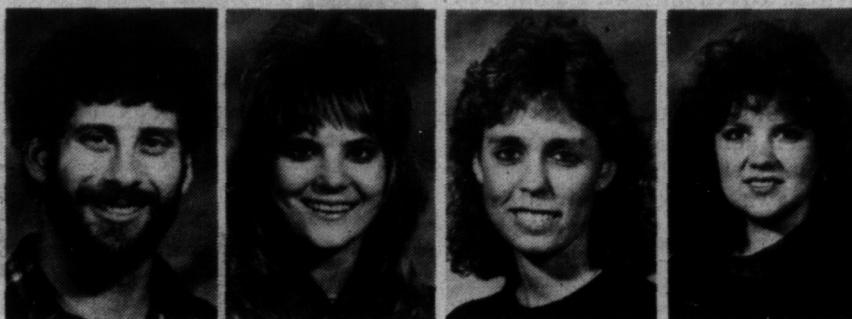
The journeymen are scheduled to work in 35 countries. They are from 23 states.

Those who receive medical clearance and successfully complete a five-week training session at the Missionary Learning Center in Rockville, Va., will be commissioned for service on July 12.

The Mississippians are:

**Janet Houston:** Most recently employed as a nurse at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, Jackson. Current address: 1635 Howard St., Jackson, Miss. 39202. College: Mississippi State University; University of Mississippi, Medical Center, Jackson. In BSU she was a summer missionary in New Mexico. Church: First, Jackson. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Wayne Houston of Starkville, Miss. She was born in Starkville. Assigned as a nurse, Ethiopia.

**Elysa Harvey:** Current address: 5901 Mary Mahoney Drive, Ocean Springs, Miss. 39564. College: Mississippi University for Women. She was a counselor at Camp Garaywa, and a summer missionary in Israel. Church: Fairview, Columbus. Daughter of Ed Harvey of Riverside, Calif., and Evelyn Clark of Ocean Springs. She was born in Hattiesburg, but considers Ocean Springs her hometown. Assigned as a



Thompson

Smith

Houston

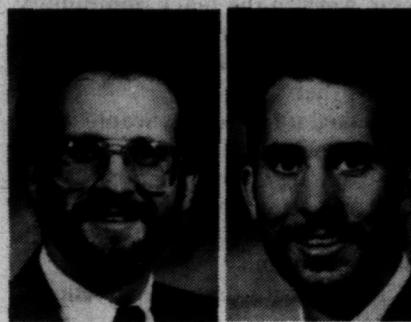
Harvey

children's worker, Mbabane, Swaziland.

**Pat Gentry:** Most recently employed as a temporary operator at Chick-Fil-A, Atlanta, Ga. Current address: 1205 Huntcliff Way, Clinton, Miss. 39056. College: Mississippi College. He made mission trips in California and Mississippi, sponsored by First Church, Clinton. Church: First Baptist, Atlanta. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles Gentry of Clinton. His father is pastor of Wynndale Church, Terry. He was born and reared in Clinton. Assigned as a media specialist or broadcast specialist, Monrovia, Liberia.

**David Jamieson:** Most recently employed as an auditor at Arthur Young and Co., Birmingham, Ala. Current address: 308 Chase Plantation Circle, Birmingham, Ala. 35244. College: Samford University. Church: South Avondale, Birmingham. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Jim Jamieson of Brentwood, Tenn. He was born in Jackson, Miss., but considers Brentwood his hometown. He also has lived in Nashville, Tenn.; Corinth, Miss.; and Huntsville, Ala. Assigned as a music and youth worker, Rabat, Morocco.

**Jim Thompson:** Most recently employed as a recreation assistant at First Church, Jackson, Miss. Current address: 3880 Forest Glen Drive, Pensacola, Fla. 32504. College: Mississippi College. Church: First, Jackson. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Bill Thompson of Pensacola, Fla. He was born and reared in Pensacola. Assigned as a community center coordinator/youth worker, Blackwood, Wales, Scotland.



Jamieson

Snyder

**Joy Smith:** Most recently employed as a camp counselor at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center. Current address: Rt. 3, Box 165, Wesson, Miss. 39191. College: University of Southern Mississippi. She was a summer missionary in Georgia. Church: Thirty-Eighth Avenue Church, Hattiesburg. Daughter of Mr. and Mrs. J. Frank Smith of Wesson, Miss. Her father is pastor of Zion Hill Church, Wesson. She was born in Ada, Okla., but considers Wesson her hometown. She also has lived in Conroe, Texas; McComb, Miss.; and Pearl City, Hawaii. Assigned as an elementary teacher, Arequipa, Peru.

**Chuck Snyder, Jr.:** Most recently employed as a student assistant at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Current address: 1725 S. 52nd St., Lincoln, Neb. 68506. College: University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He was a summer missionary in Kansas and Nebraska. He also was a Foreign Mission Board summer missionary in Ecuador. Church: New Covenant Baptist, Lincoln. Son of Mr. and Mrs. Charles F. Snyder of Madison, Miss. He was born in Lawton, Okla. Assigned as a college sports coach, Zomba, Malawi.

**She has been a nurse in Jackson and Aberdeen and was a parent and counselor at a home for girls in Jackson. Since 1984 she has been the nurse and first aid supervisor at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.**

**The Haleses have four grown daughters: Betty, Edith, Lynn and Susan.**

**Betty Barham, as a missionary associate and a nurse, will live in Ethiopia and work in public health.**

**She is a nurse with South Mississippi Home Health Rehabilitation Agency, Brookhaven, and a member of Shiloh Baptist Church, Sontag, Miss.**

**Born in Winnsboro, La., she is the former Betty Smith, and is the widow of Howard V. Barham of Hope, Ark. While growing up, she also lived in Corpus Christi, Texas, and Brookhaven.**

**She received the associate of arts degree from Copiah-Lincoln Junior College, and the bachelor of science in nursing degree from the University of Southern Mississippi.**

**She has been a Foreign Mission Board special assignment volunteer missionary to Ethiopia.**

A black church relations council has projected the possibility of over 30 black churches for Memphis, said Mississippian James Kellum, who coordinates associational black and ethnic work.

## FMB elects Mark Corts chairman of the board

By R.G. Puckett and L.E. High

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP) — C. Mark Corts, pastor of Calvary Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, N.C., was elected chairman of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board April 13 and immediately voiced support for President R. Keith Parks' priorities on evangelism that results in indigenous churches overseas.

Corts, the first North Carolina chairman in the board's history, was elected 49-17 over Frank Norman, a layman from West Point, Ga.

Howard Baldwin of Richmond, Va., president of Multi-Media Evangelism, Inc., was elected first vice chairman over Claude Kirkpatrick, a retired businessman from Baton Rouge, La. Barbara Cunningham, a pastor's wife from Houston, was elected second vice chairman in a runoff with Kenny Lewis, pastor of First Baptist Church, Brownsville, Texas. Also nominated was Hunter Riggins, an automobile dealer from Poquoson, Va.

Corts said he does not believe he was elected chairman of the Foreign Mission Board trustees because of the "conservative resurgence" but he said, "I don't doubt at all that the fact I am conservative had something to do with my election. People supported me because of that but I think the main thing is that without having to divide everybody up into sections, just to see where everybody is, people want to know that someone is committed to missions, committed to the philosophy of the Foreign Mission Board, which I am."

Asked about the possibility of Paige Patterson, one of the architects of the conservative resurgence in Southern

Baptist life, being elected to the Foreign Mission Board, Corts observed that "Paige Patterson has a right to be nominated to this board as anyone else."

"If the convention elects him, we will do our best to work with him. I think he will bring a lot of wisdom and insight to the board. Obviously, because of who he is and his leadership role, the possibility exists of the board becoming more political, I guess."

The board's business session followed a missionary appointment service that drew more than 13,500 people from across North Carolina to the Greensboro Coliseum to witness the first such service held in their state.

"I ask you to pray daily privately, and then corporately with others for this great need. Prayer is the mightiest power in the world," she said.

The board also was told that of the 1,669 names in the active file for prospective missionaries, only 64 (3.8 per cent) are from non-Southern Baptist schools. One year ago, the FMB changed its policy so that graduates of non-Southern Baptist but accredited theological seminaries may be appointed without being required to attend one year at an SBC seminary if they show strong identification with Southern Baptist work.

The Foreign Mission Board will hold an appointment service similar to the one in Greensboro next April in Little Rock, Ark. The 1990 April appointment service will be in San Diego and Maryland will be the site in 1991.

## FMB appoints Mississippians

(Continued from page 3)

Born and reared in Gaffney, S.C., Mrs. Hales is the former Violet Humphries. She received the diploma in nursing from Greenville General Hospital and attended Furman University.

She has been a nurse in Jackson and Aberdeen and was a parent and counselor at a home for girls in Jackson. Since 1984 she has been the nurse and first aid supervisor at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center.

The Haleses have four grown daughters: Betty, Edith, Lynn and Susan.

Betty Barham, as a missionary associate and a nurse, will live in Ethiopia and work in public health.

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She received the associate of arts degree from Copiah-Lincoln Junior College, and the bachelor of science in nursing degree from the University of Southern Mississippi.

She has been a Foreign Mission Board special assignment volunteer missionary to Ethiopia.

Joe and Ann Baskin, as missionary associates, will live in Malaysia, where he will teach in a seminary. He is a professor of religion at Shorter College, Rome, Ga. They are members of First Baptist Church, Rome.

Baskin was born in Sumter County, Ala. He received the bachelor of arts degree from Samford University; the bachelor of divinity degree from Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky.; and the doctor of philosophy degree from Princeton (N.J.) Theological Seminary.

He has been pastor in Kentucky and New Jersey and a Home Mission Board summer missionary in Wyoming.

Born in Carbon Hill, Ala., Mrs. Baskin is the former Ann Fox. She received the bachelor of arts degree from Samford University; the master of religious education degree from Southern Seminary; and the master of education degree from Berry College, Mount Berry, Ga. She also attended Blue Mountain College, Blue Mountain, Miss.

She has been a teacher in Rome, a summer missionary in Alabama, and a summer missionary with her husband in Wyoming.

The Baskins have two grown children. They and the 36 others appointed will go to Rockville, Va., in August for a seven-week orientation before leaving for the field.

## Memphis church's death gives new life to associational missions

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — During an Easter service of celebration and rededication, a 35-year-old church died in order that other churches might have life.

Hickory Hills Church, a white congregation located in Whitehaven in southwestern Memphis, Tenn., deeded its property valued at \$1.2 million to Shelby Baptist Association. About 50 remaining members of the once-thriving congregation will merge with Graceland Church, located a mile away.

While Hickory Hills is not the first Southern Baptist church to give its property to an association, few churches with property of significant value relinquish their assets, said Bob

Wiley, director of the associational missions division of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in Atlanta.

But the move may signal a promising trend, Wiley said, noting, "It's better than seeing these churches become restaurants."

The property will be integrated into the mainstream of missions strategy for the association, said John McBride, executive director of Shelby Baptist Association. McBride is former director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department.

The church facility, which includes six buildings, will house the associational offices and two or three congregations. In what has been tagged

a pilot project, black and ethnic groups will use the facilities as new churches are formed.

Memphis' population is more than 50 percent black, but only two black churches are among 118 churches in the association. From 1966 to 1986, Shelby County's population grew by more than 400,000 people, while the association maintained 120 churches and recorded a total net growth of 182 resident members.

A black church relations council has projected the possibility of over 30 black churches for Memphis, said Mississippian James Kellum, who coordinates associational black and ethnic work.

# Black Southern Baptist church grows in Delta

Story and photos by Tim Nicholas

Just before Easter, Eddie Jones talked with the kids at a Big A Club he had started in Greenville. They had brought about two eggs apiece to be dyed and hidden for an Easter egg hunt.

"This isn't going to be enough eggs to set a hen on," he complained to the young people.

Even if the egg hunt had trouble getting started, Jones' ministry is hatching out nicely.



Eddie Jones with vested shirt plays a pick up game of basketball at the center where his easy-to-get-to-know-you manner is popular with the young people.

Jones is a Home Mission Board missionary and staffer of First Church, Greenville, with additional support from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. He is pastor of a mission outreach of First Church in Greenville's black community. The outreach Jones has named Victory Temple Baptist Church.

Jones was called there from Moss Point last October where he had been pastor of Christ Temple Baptist Church.

Kiely Young, pastor of First Church, asked Jones to come to Greenville to begin work in the black community. The method he would employ would be to begin a black Southern Baptist church there.

"I asked if they really wanted to do a ministry or did they just want their name among churches starting missions," Jones said. "They said they really wanted to do something in the black community."

"There was a dream and vision to minister to the city as a total population," said Young. "The Lord has opened multiple doors to take care of it," he said, adding the work is growing at a faster rate than he had anticipated.

Jones reported about 30 in attendance at each service in the church building which is being leased from Gemayel Road Baptist Church.

Jones' tools for growth are the Big A Clubs in two locations, a lot of public exposure, and his teaching style.

"We're emphasizing upon teaching rather than preaching," said Jones. "One of the things that blacks are getting more into now is in being taught what the Bible is saying."

Jones has also made himself available to speak in public settings. A dabble in drugs before he was saved gave him the experience to talk to teens about the dangers of drugs and alcohol. He's spoken in public schools and PTA groups. He was on the ACTS network show "Life Today with Jimmy Allen," and has been invited onto a local talk show.

The two Big A clubs garner pro-



Sharon Henderson, center with scarf, says she believes it's up to God to change lives in her volunteer work with Victory Temple Church, Greenville. "We're supposed to witness; God saves them."

spects for Sunday School at the church and provide an entree for Jones and his volunteers to visit in the homes of the kids.

One of the clubs Jones is ready to give over to one of the National Baptist churches which is closer than Victory Temple where he will begin another club.

Jones is being invited into "a lot of the black churches and some of the white churches," he said. "It's something new."

First Church people are helping make the ministry work. Paul Pounds of the Greenville Park Commission, and a First Church member, gave permission to use two city centers for the Big A clubs. And such members as

Beverly Kelly, Louise and James Blain, and Sharon Henderson, all help at the centers along with Victory Temple members Mary Hankins, Linda Lance, and Linda Haynes.

Mrs. Blain said that Eddie Jones was an answer to her prayers that her church could get work started among blacks in Greenville which has about half black and half white population. When he began his work, both she and her husband, a retired postal employee, volunteered.

Sharon Henderson is WMU missions support chairman. She teaches the 4th-6th grade girls in Big A. A home health nurse, Mrs. Henderson knows much about the home life of her kids who face difficult futures. In Greenville, she said, the average year for unwed mothers is during the 8th grade.

In her class she's "working on telling what love is and who Jesus is," she said.

Jones needs more volunteers, though. Much work is still ahead.

## Islam's growth makes converts harder to obtain

GREENSBORO, N.C. (BP) — Islam's growing fundamentalism has fueled increased opposition to the Christian gospel in the past five years, an expert in the subject told Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board trustees April 13. And that growth is making already scarce conversions to Christianity even harder to obtain throughout the Middle East and North Africa.

Attaining more conversions will require, among other things, more missionaries who are better trained specifically for witnessing to Muslims, said Dale Thorne, who directs Southern Baptist work in the Middle East and North Africa from a base in Cyprus.

Conversions always are more difficult among Muslims who live closer to Islam's three holiest sites, Mecca and Medina in Saudi Arabia and Jerusalem, Thorne said.

But slow response does not negate Southern Baptists' responsibility to witness for Christ in "all nations," including the Arab world.

One evidence of Islam's growing hold on Gaza is that the number of Islamic mosques, or prayer houses, now stands at about 180, an almost twofold increase in recent years.

After up to 75 years of Baptist work in the Middle East and North Africa, still only 41 Baptist churches are spread throughout the region.

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Mary Hankins of Victory Temple, Greenville, draws in the second graders past the tumult of a gymnasium filled with other kids.

# capsules

## Baptists supervise rebuilding of Saragosa Community Center

DALLAS (BP) — A new community center, built under the supervision of Texas Baptist missionary/church builder George Harrison, was dedicated recently in Saragosa, the west Texas town that was leveled by a tornado last May.

The new Saragosa Multipurpose Center replaces the old school building that had served as a community center before it was destroyed in the May 22 tornado. Many of the 29 people killed and 121 injured in that disaster were at the community center attending a preschool gradu-

ation ceremony of the Head Start program when the tornado hit.

The new 8,000-square-foot facility was financed primarily through a \$275,000 grant from the Dallas-based Meadows Foundation. Labor was provided by Saragosa citizens trained and supervised by Harrison, whose salary and expenses during the six-month construction project were provided by Texas Baptists through Cooperative Program unified budget giving. Estimated market value of the completed, equipped building is about \$400,000.

## HMB president Lewis featured at New York Fellowship meeting

DALLAS (BP) — Southern Baptist Home Mission Board President Larry Lewis will be the featured banquet speaker at the third annual meeting of the Southern Baptist New Work Fellowship June 13 in San Antonio.

"Church Starting Through Telemarketing" and "Models and Testimonies for Church Starting" will be the dual themes of the conference at the Hyatt Regency Riverwalk prior to the annual session of the Southern

Baptist Convention, June 14-16. The conference will begin at 2 p.m. and conclude at 5:30 p.m., with the banquet following at 6 p.m.

Keynote speakers at the meeting include Norman Whan of the California-based "Technigrowth" organization; Richard Lopez, bivocational pastor from San Antonio, and Omar Pachecano, associate director of missions of El Paso (Texas) Baptist Association.

## Pastor's mother is murdered

Billy Skinner, pastor of First Baptist Church of Glendale, Hattiesburg, received news during the offertory at the morning worship service Sunday, April 24, that his mother had been murdered in Memphis. Someone had broken into his mother's house Saturday

night, April 23, and killed her.

Cosmopolitan Funeral Home, 1900 Union Avenue, Memphis, was in charge of the funeral services. The funeral was held at Ardmore Baptist Church, Memphis.

## Europe will celebrate WMU centennial

RIEDELBURG, FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF GERMANY — In May 1988, the European Baptist Convention's WMU group will celebrate the WMU's Centennial at a retreat in Rolduc, Holland. Over 170 people are expected to attend this retreat, the biggest ever planned for the WMU of the EBC.

The featured speaker is Lou Ann Lee, a Mississippian missionary to France for 25 years. Lee was one of the first WMU presidents of the EBC. Other features of the weekend include a quilting party, a style show, a time of reflection, "Those Were the Days," a dress-up party, and small group opportunities.

## U.S.S.R. more tolerant, dissenters still jailed

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — The State Department reports that the Soviet government gave its people freedom and showed more tolerance toward dissidents in 1987, but observers say there has been no "dawn of democracy" there. The finding was contained in the State Department's annual report on human rights around the world.

Assistant Secretary of State Richard Schifter told the press in early February that "there has been some relaxation in the harshness of repression. Some political and religious prisoners have been released."

The 1,358-page State Department report covers 169 countries. The section on the Soviet Union noted that changes made under the leadership of General Secretary Mikhail Gor-

bachev were "more than cosmetic and less than fundamental." Examples given were the release of some political prisoners, but reference was made to the fact that the majority remain in prison. Also mentioned was the Soviet announcement to end the "truly barbaric practice" of sending dissidents to psychiatric hospitals. And conditions in prison may have worsened during 1987, it was reported. There has also been an increase in emigration levels of ethnic Germans, Armenians, and Jews, the report stated.

Schifter also said that Cuba remains with North Korea among the most repressive states in the world, "closely resembling George Orwell's nightmare state as depicted in his novel 1984."



**The Word Of Life** — A young man in Fiji listens intently as Southern Baptist missionary Hugh Smith lets his Bible explain, step by step, how to know the true life God intended for everyone. Smith met the man in a souvenir shop on the South Pacific island. Smith has been working about two years as a church starter in Fiji with his wife, Kathryn. For several years Smith himself was a lost — but baptized — church member because no one had ever actually explained the Word of Life to him. (FMB) PHOTO By Joanna Pirineo

## Civil rights law

(Continued from page 2)

FINALLY, religious organizations retain the right to discriminate on any basis in the hiring of their ministers and teachers of religion. Contrary to highly publicized claims about the act, churches will not be forced to hire practicing homosexual drug addicts with AIDS as youth pastors.

Numerous questions have been raised about that portion of the act which bars discrimination against the handicapped in federally funded programs. In court decisions unrelated to the new law, "handicap" has been construed to include alcoholism if the condition does not affect significantly the employee's ability to do his or her job. AIDS victims have received similar protection.

The Civil Rights Restoration Act provides some relief to organizations that do not wish to employ AIDS victims by stating that "handicap" does not include "an individual who has a currently contagious disease or infection and who by reason of such disease or infection would constitute a direct threat to the health or safety of others . . ."

The underlying principle of the Civil Rights Restoration Act is one familiar to Baptists. Accepting government funds invites government scrutiny and regulation. In one sense, it is the governmental equivalent of good stewardship.

Oliver Thomas is general counsel for the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs.

Love is a fond hello, and sometimes a sad goodbye, a word of assurance; a pat on the back, a sharing of glances, an acknowledgement of circumstances; A mutual understanding, a fulfillment in life's dreams, a gentleness of words; a sweet disposition, a fatherly correction; It's an extension of one's self beyond it's imaginable existence — Tex McPherson

## Former missionary sues FMB for \$141 million

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — A former missionary filed two lawsuits for \$141 million against the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board in Richmond, Va., Circuit Court April 14.

The suits claim a representative of the board was told the woman's husband had sexually abused the couple's oldest daughter but did not report it to the wife or to police.

Diana Wade, 38, and her husband, G. Thomas Wade Jr., 47, were missionaries in Kenya and Botswana from 1976 until their return to the United States in 1984. The board requested Mrs. Wade's resignation after her husband voluntarily submitted his resignation in August 1985. The resignations were effective Jan. 31, 1986. The couple is now divorced.

Mrs. Wade claims in the suits that the board's field associate in southern Africa, Marion G. (Bud) Fray, learned of the alleged sexual abuse after the family returned from a furlough in 1981-82 and met with the husband. The suits say Fray asked her husband to get counseling and give permission for the daughter to attend counseling, but he refused the help, promising the abuse would not continue.

The suits allege Fray is believed to have reported the situation to other representatives of the board and that he advised the daughter, then 14, against making an official report or telling her mother. As a result, the suits claim, sexual abuse of two younger daughters and a son later occurred. The children now range in age from 20 to 15.

Mrs. Wade filed one suit for herself and one for the four children.

Board President R. Keith Parks declined to comment on the allegations in the lawsuits, saying comment

is inappropriate because the matter is in litigation. He did say that the board intended to defend itself against the action vigorously.

Wade, a native of Austell, Ga., received forestry and agricultural degrees from the University of Georgia, Athens. Mrs. Wade, a native of Shawnee, Okla., attended colleges in Alaska, Georgia and Missouri. The couple lived in Alaska, where Wade worked for the State of Alaska as a forester, before their missionary appointment.

## MSU BSU will sponsor day of Missions Madness

The Baptist Student Union of Mississippi State University will sponsor MISSIONS MADNESS on April 30, with crazy games, testimonies, Christian music, and more. The day is especially for junior and senior high young people to visit State and have an exciting day while supporting BSU student missions. MSU-BSU has ten students who will serve in various places this summer around the United States and in Israel, Korea, and the Philippines.

Two former BSU missionaries, Gwenda Arinder and Donetta Blaine, will speak, as well as Eddie Graves, career missionary to Chile. In addition, The Fishermen and Drawn Together will sing and Acts, Too, will perform.

Youth groups from all over the state are invited to join in this day of competition. Trophies will be awarded to winning teams. For more information, call (601) 323-5761.

## MC musicians will present "Naturally Spectacular"

The Chester Swor Auditorium, Mississippi College, will be ablaze with lights and musical entertainment for the entire family on May 2 at 7:30 p.m.

"Naturally Spectacular" will be presented by THE NATURALS, musical performing troupe under the direction of Mrs. Frank Hart of the music faculty.

Tickets are \$4 for adults and \$2 for students. They may be purchased at the door, or may be reserved by calling 925-3248.

THE NATURALS were formed in

1969 and re-structured this year. Mrs. George Bell is the choreographer and Mrs. Roger Bozarth is the costume designer.

Members of the troupe include Kathy Baxter and Greg Jones, Brandon; Angie Gilstrap, Steven Nettles, Doug Shirley, and Geoff Thornton, Clinton; Marla Pearson, Amory; Stephanie Speights, LaPlace, La.; Susan Banes, Canton; Jammy Berry, Water Valley; Jeff Lawrence, Orlando, Fla.; Keith Fortenberry, Brookhaven; Glenn Robinson, Laurel; and George Remirez, Dallas, Tex.

## Seminar: pastoral counseling

"How to Counsel over a Cup of Coffee," is the title of a session of an upcoming seminar to take place at the Baptist Building in Jackson.

The seminar will offer ministers an overview of pastoral counseling and will take place June 21, 8:45 a.m. to 3:15 that afternoon.

**Hightower** Seminar leader will be James Hightower of the Church Administration Department, Baptist Sunday School Board.

Hightower is editor of the book, "Caring for Folks, from Birth to Death."

Other topics besides the coffee cup session, include "Seven Questions about Caring I was Hoping You'd Ask," "Making the Pulpit a Place of Comfort," "Ten Steps to Follow in Counseling Session," "Listening: The Cornerstone of Effective Counseling," and "Sharing our Counseling: Let's Help Each Other."

To register for the seminar, write Church Administration-Pastoral Ministers Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205. Include a check for \$10 payable to the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board.





# Letters to the editor



**Letters to the editor** must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

## Memorial to Claas

**Editor:**

The recent death of Dr. Gerhard Claas, general secretary of the Baptist World Alliance, represents a tragedy of immense proportions to the worldwide Baptist family.

Dr. Claas' work attempting to get the fractious Baptist community (some 35 million around the globe) to cooperate in missions and ministry was surely among the most ambitious tasks ever faced by a mortal. It was something akin to "making bricks without straw."

His stature as both a preacher and a statesman made him uniquely qualified for his role. He was deeply gifted of the Spirit, as both a sensitive pastor and a challenging prophet.

Over my desk hangs a notecard with one of his remarks from an address he gave in 1985:

"When I visited Asia a couple of years ago, I was received in one country by the Commander in Chief of the Army who presented me with a plate showing a unit of soldiers on attack. The inscription said 'God loves the strong.' Is this true? I rather would suggest that God is always on the side of the weak."

Dr. Claas was also fond of saying, "Our vision must be as big as the world." Unfortunately — because we are still trapped by a narrow and parochial vision of our work — not many rank-and-file Baptists know about either Dr. Claas or the work of the Baptist World Alliance. My prayer is that God will use this moment of profound grief to awaken us to the essential work of the BWA.

In that regard, I hope you will alert your readers to the Memorial Fund that has been established in Dr. Claas' memory, one that will lead toward the blossoming of the mission to which his life was dedicated. Gifts in his honor and in support of the BWA may be sent to: Gerhard Claas Memorial Fund, Baptist World Alliance, 6733 Curran St., McLean, Va. 22101.

Ken Sehested  
Memphis

## Tribute to Claas

**Editor:**

"But as for me, how wonderful to be near God, to find protection with the Sovereign Lord and to proclaim all that He has done!" Psalm 73:28

This is the wedding verse of Gerhard and Irmgard Claas. For many years of ministry, it has been their theme and goal.

On March 21, Gerhard Claas was tragically killed in an automobile accident in California. He was there on a mission, gaining support for the Baptist World Alliance. Baptists around the world have expressed great shock and sorrow at this tragic loss. Gerhard Claas was an evangelist who practiced daily the presence of God. He knew the Psalmist's word, "how wonderful to be near God." Now he is indeed near God in a very special way.

The officers and staff of the Baptist

World Alliance request your earnest prayers for Irmgard Claas and family during these difficult days. Indeed we, too, as staff of the BWA, will need special undergirding with prayer to continue the vision of Christ and his kingdom that Gerhard Claas had for the Baptist World Alliance. A great spiritual leader with a deep sense of compassion and love for the oppressed and needy of this world has been lost. It is our prayer that the BWA will continue to be an instrument of the compassionate and living Christ.

A number of friends have asked how they may express their love for Gerhard Claas. We are pleased to announce a Gerhard Claas Memorial Fund for the Baptist World Alliance. The whole Baptist world family joins us in expressing deepest sympathy to Irmgard, Regina, Gabriele, and Martin and their families.

Funeral services were held the week of March 28 at the Claases' home church, Vollmarstein Baptist Church, in Wetter, Germany. A memorial service was held at McLean Baptist Church, McLean, Va., April 19.

Noel Vose, president  
Denton Lotz  
deputy general secretary  
Baptist World Alliance

## Return to roots

**Editor:**

In recent weeks as I have read the **Baptist Record** I have noticed the emphasis by the moderates and liberals on returning to our "roots," our great "Baptist Heritage." I agree heartily, but Baptist heritage, however, includes much more than personal freedom. That is only a small stone in the fountain. Baptist freedom concerns church autonomy and liberty of conscience within society but has never extended to the negation of biblical authority. We as Baptists must not consider ourselves free to reject the inspiration of parts of the Bible. We as Baptists oppose the teaching of any theory of biblical criticism which undermines the "historical accuracy and doctrinal integrity" of scripture. Scripture has been the cornerstone, the common ground, the point of unity for us as Baptists.

Our first Southern Baptist theological seminary was founded by J. P. Boyce and Basil Manly, Jr., who held this view of scripture. We should pray that this seminary and all our institutions will receive nurture from their "roots." Boyce and Manly experienced conflict because of their stance.

If the moderates and liberals want freedom and unity as found in our heritage, then they must return to the biblical stance of our Baptist forefathers, for there is no room for compromise at the point of commitment to God's Word. We see that men such as J. P. Boyce, Basil Manly Jr.,

John L. Dagg, John A. Broadus, B. H. Carroll, and many others who helped make Southern Baptists so influential, held to this teaching of scripture. So I agree that we do need to return to our "roots"; not just to a small portion but to all of the great doctrinal teachings that were held by our Baptist forefathers.

Thomas Winn  
Jackson

I think most Southern Baptists would agree with returning to our "roots" as soon as we determine which set of roots is ours. I don't know who the "liberals" are; but I feel that if a poll could be taken of the "moderates," they would be just as intent on biblical authority as are the "conservatives." It is true that all of the men that you mentioned were committed to God's Word, but from different perspectives. Carroll, for instance, was a postmillennialist. He founded Southwestern Seminary. Boyce and Broadus and Manly, who were key figures at Southern Seminary, very likely were premillennialists. Dagg never had a formal education, but still served briefly as president of Mercer University.

So we have had men through the years who had differing views of scripture but nevertheless were confident of its authority, inspiration, and veracity. While they differed in their concepts, they respected each other's positions and worked together to try to get the message of salvation to a lost world. That, too, is a Baptist root. — Editor

## Unsigned letters

**Editor:**

I have a problem with people who are bold enough to write of their frustrations in a letter to the editor but not bold enough to sign their names.

The latest case in point is the unsigned letter in the April 14, 1988, issue of the **Baptist Record** entitled, "Strike Like Lightning."

I read with interest the question, "Are our Sunday School classes to follow suit as self-ordained arbiters of the 'faith' dictate what is to be said rather than allowing the Holy Spirit to instruct each priest/believer through his word?"

I tried to decide whether my Sunday School class should answer "yes" to the question, but I have to confess that I do not fully comprehend what the writer is asking.

However, I would like to go on record as saying that I diligently seek the leadership of the Holy Spirit as I prepare to teach the scripture each Sunday. I also want to point out that I believe the Bible teaches pastoral authority. In Hebrews 13:17 we read, "Obey them that have the rule over you, and submit yourselves: for they watch for your souls, as they must give account . . ."

I teach the ladies in my class that we are to follow the leadership of our spiritual leader as he faithfully feeds the flock and is an example to the fellowship (I Peter 5).

If the day comes when I cannot follow the leadership of my spiritual leader, I will find another place to

worship rather than write an unsigned letter to the editor.

As you can see, I have a problem with unsigned letters. However, I believe I have even a bigger problem with a Christian newspaper that would print them. It seems to me that publishing these letters encourages disharmony and not unity in the body.

As I view the day in which we live, I believe we believers need to band together in order to "... be able to stand against the wiles of the devil" (Eph. 6:11).

Nan Thompson  
Jackson

We had a problem with it too and changed our policy accordingly. — Editor

## The best part

**Editor:**

The theme for the 109th annual meeting of the Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union was, "The Best Part."

As I listened to the leaders of our state and national WMU, and to our missionaries from the Home and Foreign Mission Boards tell of their best part, my thoughts took me to my best part.

For the past four years I have served on the Mississippi WMU Executive Board. I was associate director in District II. My best part was working with Dell Scoper-District II director, WMU leaders/members of District II, state WMU staff, Mississippi WMU Executive Board members, and all the WMU members across our great State. I was given many opportunities to grow and serve in missions.

I thank God for giving me "The Best Part" — serving alongside.

Gail Benedict  
Purvis

## Inspiring Alliance

**Editor:**

I want to express my appreciation to those who planned and conducted the recent meeting of the Southern Baptist Alliance at Alta Woods Church in Jackson.

The fellowship was good, the spirit sweet, the worship inspiring!

Mrs. Joyce C. Rogers  
Tupelo

## Individual freedom

**Editor:**

A letter has been written by a Mississippi pastor and widely read in Mississippi. I would like to respond publicly.

First, I appreciate the pastor openly expressing his thoughts about the Southern Baptist Convention. While I do not agree with all he writes, I believe the sharing of views is the method by which we move toward a better understanding and possible consensus.

In my study of Christian history I am led to believe that controversy and hostility have more to do with a Christian movement waning in power than the differences that exist. It is not the differences but how we cope with the differences or how we relate to those with whom we differ that determines our spiritual strength. I, too, am weary of the struggle, but I am not weary of our having differences. We

can resolve differences and help one another to grow, but coercion or power used to force unity and agreement destroys fellowship and personhood. David Mace has said that whenever power is used in a love relationship, it is always destructive. Thankfully, controversy and sidelining or excommunicating those with whom we differ are not the only alternatives open.

The matter of academic freedom in our schools to which the letter objects is by nature required if people are to be free and true to themselves. We do not want robots that parrot the dogma of those in control. That some will abuse freedom is the risk we have to take. That some in freedom will interpret things differently from ourselves is the risk we have to take. God takes the risk in giving us freedom.

This also speaks to the criticism regarding the stance of the **Baptist Record**. It appears that the writer believes the undesirable position of the **Baptist Record** will be resolved by who gets elected president at the Southern Baptist Convention. If allowed to remain free, we run the continued risk that editorials will not always be a copy of our personal views. Considering who our editor is, we can always assume the editorials will sincerely and honestly reflect what a fellow Christian and Baptist leader believes to be true and fair.

George F. Lee  
Columbia

## No congratulations

**Editor:**

Congratulations are not in order for John Thomason, president of the Southern Baptist Alliance. The Southern Baptist Alliance support people who do not believe Jesus Christ is the only way of salvation as the Bible and as our Baptist Faith and Message states. In fact your March 10, paper tells of such a man that they would support. I know of others.

My prayer is that the Lord will help us be holy, kind, and truthful in the Southern Baptist Convention. We need to proclaim Jesus IS the Truth and the ONLY way to the Father (John 14:6).

David Howell, pastor  
Unity Church  
Magnolia

I feel that if we were to be able to contact every member of the Southern Baptist Alliance, each one would say the same thing. The basis for being a Baptist is not what is at issue in the Southern Baptist Convention. The problem is how the basis is viewed. — Editor

## GA camp at Central Hills is filled

GA camp at Central Hills is filled to capacity. Registration is closed for girls to attend GA camp at Central Hills. Two weeks at Camp Garaywa are filled to capacity, June 13-17 and June 20-24. All other weeks still have space available. July 25-29 is for Acteens only.

## Tribute to Claas

**Editor:**

"But as for me, how wonderful to be near God, to find protection with the Sovereign Lord and to proclaim all that He has done!" Psalm 73:28

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The officers and staff of the Baptist



## Faces and places

by Anne Washburn McWilliams



### *When I think of Mama . . .*

When I think of Mama, I think of Apples drying in the sun, spread on newspapers on sheets of corrugated tin

Blackberry picking, the briars clutching at her big straw hat

Chocolate teacakes in my little first grade pink lunchbox

Dogs, — a whole parade of them — she fed for me

Eggs she sent to the store by me, to exchange for a nickel's or dime's worth of ice

Flourishing ferns she has divided and repotted to give me half

Getting ready for church on Sunday morning, feeling dressed up in the dotted Swiss dress Mama made

Happy Mother's Days we've enjoyed together in the past, and which I wish for her on May 8.

Immeasurable and uncountable deeds of love and hours of work she has given of herself to me and my sister and to her grandchildren and great-grandchildren

Johnnie Lou, her name — for her father, whose name was John

"Keep something spread over your new couch and it will stay clean and nice longer." (Her advice on keeping your possessions nice is something she practices herself)

Letters she has written me by the jillions

Merthiolate with which she painted my knees, skinned from bicycle wrecks

Notes and lists she keeps, of projects always waiting to be done

Oil of cloves she used to soothe my toothaches

Picnics, for which she and I share a passion

Quilts she has made for everyone in our family, from Sunbonnet Girl to Over-all Boy to Flower Garden to Bow-Tie

Reading — more now than ever, often a book a day (she was reading a magazine the week before I was

born and named me for the main character in one of the stories, Marjorie Anne)

Soda she rubbed on me when I got in the path of a bunch of yellow jackets

Trips we've made together, like the time at Disney World when we lost our car in the parking lot

Umbrellas, which remind me of her because of her thrifty way of saving for a rainy day

Vicks she smeared on a hot cloth for my throat when I had a bad cold

Washing days, using metal tubs, Mama's small but strong arms thrust into the cold rinse water, her fingers wringing out the wet sheets

X-tra security I feel, because I know she prays for me

"Young-looking," the compliment she often receives (and it's true. She was 21 when I was born, but I think she looks younger than I)

Zeal and determination, with which she takes up any task she begins.

## Students spend break on mission

Two teams of students from Mississippi State University recently spent their spring break on the mission field.

The Baptist Student Union at MSU sent eight students to Theriot, La. and 20 students to Charleston, Ill.

Carol Bates, Patty Wilder, Michelle Williams, Kim Thaggard, Timmy Dobbs, Keith Hamilton, Rodney Dobbs, and Ken Hester went to the Bayou Dularge Baptist Mission in Louisiana. While there the group placed heavy emphasis on personal evangelism. According to Hester, their

involvement in the predominantly Catholic community ranged from nursing home and hospital visitation to leading home Bible studies and painting a shrimp boat.

Members of "Drawn Together" and "Acts, Too," the BSU contemporary music and drama groups, along with BSU director Ken Watkins spent a week in Charleston at Eastern Illinois University. Watkins said that the group was involved in one-on-one contact and survey work on the campus as well as holding two evangelistic

rallies. The Mississippi students were also able to exchange ideas with and give encouragement to the growing Baptist Student Union at Eastern Illinois.

Watkins added that he felt their goals of ministering at every opportunity, forming a bond as a group and carrying out the intentions of Sylvan Knoblock, EIU BSU director, had been reached. He said he felt "we discovered new gifts and abilities through church ministry outside the 'Bible Belt.' "

## Fanini's TV station opens in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (BP) — It took the world's largest soccer stadium to hold the crowd at the inauguration of a television station started by Brazilian Baptist evangelist and pastor Nilson Fanini.

More than 40,000 people gathered in Maracana Stadium in Rio de Janeiro for the five-hour inauguration March 26 of the station known as TV Rio, reported Southern Baptist missionary Kent Faris.

Described as Brazil's Billy Graham, Fanini is well-known in Brazil for his television program, "Reencontro," which has been carried

by more than 150 television stations over the years.

Fanini's station, which could reach 7 million viewers, will have religious programming each morning. Afternoons will feature films, news, sports and commentary. Educational programming will be available to help viewers advance in school grade levels. Books will be offered to accompany educational programming.

Brazilian Baptists will be able to broadcast programs through TV Rio, Faris said.

The stadium event featured a speech from Fanini, as well as enter-

tainment from singers, gymnasts and boxers. Federal officials and well-known actresses attended, Faris said.

The high attendance at the inauguration shows "the high esteem which the Protestant and evangelical churches in Brazil have for Baptist churches there," said Thurmon Bryant, associate vice president for mission management at the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Fanini is pastor of First Baptist Church of Niteroi, Brazil. The 5,000-member church oversees 92 missions and provides care for 3,500 slum children.

## Omega Shamblin, Baptist volunteer, dies

Omega Shamblin, Baptist volunteer, died April 23 in Vicksburg. He was buried in Green Acres Cemetery, Vicksburg.

Retired from the Army Corps of Engineers, Shamblin was a pioneer in

ed on the disaster relief task force until 1982.

Shamblin is survived by his wife, Lottie Mae; son James Shamblin of Jackson; and daughters Carol Ann Oakman and Alta Klaus, both of Vicksburg.

## Puppetry festival begins

"God Likes Fun" is the focus of a session of Puppetry Jam 88, a puppetry festival taking place at the Mississippi Agriculture and Forestry Museum in Jackson today through April 30.

The religious emphasis will be led by the Broadmoor Baptist Church Messengers, a youth group involved in puppetry.

Diana Chiles, pediatric therapist at Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson, will perform with Bernard, a puppet which helps children through therapy.

Other performances depict environmental issues, drug dangers, dealing with handicaps, and storytelling.



## Book reviews

**Harbour. Brian L. RISING ABOVE THE CROWD. Broadman, Nashville, 1988.**

The author is the well-known pastor of Immanuel Baptist Church, Little Rock, Ark. He writes and speaks extensively.

**Rising Above the Crowd** is another in the long line of motivational, self-help books. At first glance one might have the impression nothing new could possibly be said in this area.

Yet, Dr. Harbour does a great job pointing out some steps one must take to rise above the crowd.

The book is organized into 13 chapters. The first is an introduction and the last is a conclusion. Chapters two through 12 deal with 11 steps to rise above the crowd. The author takes Biblical characters such as Caleb, Elisha, Moses, Joseph, Daniel, Paul, etc., and uses aspects of their lives to illustrate each step along the

ladder to excellence in the Christian life.

We often think of success in terms of dollars, homes, automobiles, etc. . . . The author makes it very clear one doesn't have to be wealthy or even well-educated to rise above the crowd. If you are going to rise above the crowd you must first know where you are going. What is your purpose in your life? You must also know yourself. You must work within your limits.

This is not a book of sermons. The chapters are not outlined in sermonic form, yet the book is literally filled with illustrative material. This would be a great gift for a graduating senior. It would provide refreshing reading for all laypeople, and the illustrations alone would prove helpful to the pastor. It is a good book, well-written, easy to read.

Reviewed by Greg Potts, pastor, Providence Church, near Meadville.

### Devotional

## My mother's face

By Mary Lee Carraway

And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord . . . (II Corinthians 3:18).

My mother died four years ago this month. I have thought of her often lately. Perhaps it is because more and more often, when I look into the mirror, I see her face staring back at me.



I don't know why this should surprise me. All my life people have said that I looked like her. But the thought never really impressed me. I guess I thought it only meant that I was growing older.

But now, with the resemblance stronger than ever before, I realize that I had rather look like her than anyone else on earth. To have her countenance indelibly stamped on my face is a rich inheritance indeed.

My mother had seven children. She never read a book on child psychology nor attended a seminar on parenting. She reared us with common sense and a firm conviction of right and wrong. She loved us all equally, but somehow managed to make each of us think that we were the best loved one of all. She was not an educated person, nor traveled, nor sophisticated, nor wealthy. And, perhaps by the world's standards, she would not have been considered beautiful.

But she was beautiful to me. Her face was beautiful with the strength that comes from self denial, the wisdom that comes from experience, and the courage that comes from pain. Her face was beautiful with humility of a sweet spirit and a lifetime of caring and generosity and love and foot washing.

And I am honored to think that I look like my mother, because in her face, I saw the image of Jesus.

My own daughter is grown now. Most of her life, people have said that she looks like me. Usually she shakes her head and laughs this off.

But if some day, she, too, is proud to claim this resemblance because she sees in my face the reflection of Jesus, then I shall count that dear success as a mother and know that my job was well done.

Mary Lee Carraway, a free lance writer, is member of First Church, Lucedale.

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- TAKE MY LIFE AND LET IT BE
- WONDERFUL WORDS OF LIFE
- SONG OF WONDERFUL LOVE  
(Wonderful, Wonderful)
- EVERY CLOUD HAS A SILVER LINING
- WE HAVE AN ANCHOR
- AM I NEARER TO HEAVEN TODAY
- WILL THERE BE ANY STARS
- FROM THE CROSS TO THE CROWN
- I'LL LIVE IN GLORY
- I'LL LIVE ON

- UPON THE BANKS OF JORDAN STOOD  
(All parts sung by Ray Walker)
- THERE IS A FOUNTAIN
- GLORY FOR ME
- BECAUSE HE LIVES
- JESUS IS ALL THE WORLD TO ME
- WHERE THE ROSES NEVER FADE
- SURELY GOODNESS AND MERCY
- HEAVEN
- WHISPERING HOPE

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- JESUS, KEEP ME NEAR THE CROSS
- TO THE WORK
- RESCUE THE PERISHING
- TO GOD BE THE GLORY
- CLOSE TO THEE
- PASS ME NOT
- HOLD THOU MY HAND
- TAKE THE WORLD, BUT GIVE ME JESUS

- I SHALL KNOW HIM
- REDEEMED
- WILL YOU COME?
- 'TIS THE BLESSED HOUR OF PRAYER
- WILL JESUS FIND US WATCHING?
- PRAISE HIM! PRAISE HIM!
- TELL ME THE STORY OF JESUS
- THOUGH YOUR SINS BE AS SCARLET
- SAFE IN THE ARMS OF JESUS
- THE HALF I CANNOT TELL
- SAVIOR, MORE THAN LIFE TO ME
- WELCOME FOR ME
- SPEED AWAY
- SOMEDAY THE SILVER CORD WILL BREAK

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# Nominator: Committee violated peace process

By Marv Knox

NASHVILLE (BP) — The Southern Baptist Committee on Nominations violated the convention's peace process by politicizing the selection of denominational trustees, a member of the committee has charged.

But the committee's chairman has refuted the allegation, citing theology — not politics — as the standard for trustee nominations.

The committee met in Nashville March 17-18 to nominate people to fill trustee vacancies for Southern Baptist boards, seminaries, commissions, and committees. Messengers to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting will vote on those nominations when they convene in San Antonio, Texas, June 14-16.

The nominating committee "violated the very spirit of the (SBC) Peace Committee report," said Raymond T. Boswell, an insurance executive from Shreveport, La.

The SBC has been plagued by charges of theological irregularity and political maneuvering since the late 1970s. The Peace Committee was created in 1985 to restore harmony to the convention. The Peace Committee's report, which was adopted by an almost-unanimous vote during the SBC annual meeting last summer, cited the background of the conflict and recommended changes to bring about peace.

Boswell said the Peace Committee report was violated because a conservative political litmus test was applied to several potential nominees.

The question was asked about some of them, "Have they been in the struggle with us since 1979?" he said.

"So the decision was not whether you believe the whole Bible and whether you believe in the inspiration of Scripture," he said of the nomination process. "The issue rests on whether or not you have been in the struggle with them since 1979."

Such questioning of identity and involvement runs "against the very statement in the Peace Committee report in which they say, 'It is the unanimous conclusion of the Peace Committee that fairness in the appointive process would contribute to peace,'" Boswell said.

"Throughout the conclusions and recommendations of the Peace Committee, this kind of thing touches organized political activity and political strategies developed by a group with central control," he added. "Those were a part of the Peace Committee recommendations, and they (the Committee on Nominations) have violated the very spirit of the Peace Committee report."

Nominating committee Chairman Joseph T. Knott III, an attorney from Raleigh, N.C., said that charge is untrue, mainly because the issue in the SBC is theology and not politics.

"I did not think it was a political criterion that was being laid down," Knott said. "My reading of the committee was that people were very much concerned about church membership, baptisms, Cooperative Program, the stand on the Peace Committee report, the Bible and its total trustworthiness — lots of interest in a person theologically. The only

motivation I have as I read that committee was theological."

Convention politics was not part of the consideration, because politics is not part of the controversy, he added: "I don't believe there has been political involvement. I believe the whole controversy has been theological and not political . . . The idea of a political struggle — I disagree with that whole concept.

"By politics, I mean people banding together for a political purpose so that one group of people will gain political advantage over another group for the furthering of the winning team's careers. That's not what I see going on. I don't see this as a career-enhancing sort of activity.

"I see it purely as an issue that's being debated, a theological issue that has nothing to do with the term 'politics' as it is generally used. I see it as purely service to Christ."

Boswell, however, cited two primary evidences of what he called political activity: the questioning of potential nominees' involvement in the conservative cause within the SBC and the involvement in the nomination process of conservative leaders who are not members of the nominating committee.

He cited his own experience as an example of the first type of activity. He and his Louisiana colleague on the committee, Monroe pastor Benny R. Thompson, presented alternate slates of nominees for most Louisiana trustee vacancies.

The duo had a "good meeting" prior to the Nashville session and agreed they "just come from different points of view with regard to people serving as trustees of our agencies and institutions," Boswell said. "We agreed that I would present my slate, and he would present his, and together we would present those we could agree on."

"When I had presented mine, and my counterpart had presented his, . . . I was asked first, 'What do your people believe about the Bible?' . . . Then my counterpart was asked, 'Have those you nominated been in the struggle with us since 1979?'"

Concerning his second element of politics — involvement of people who are not on the committee — Boswell said two nominating committee members mentioned contacting conservative SBC leaders, who are not on the committee, about their

recommendations.

On another front, the nominating committee's work was politicized further by the operation of a Knott-appointed subcommittee, Boswell said.

That group established operating procedures with disregard for previously established functions and policies, and it screened nominees to determine their theological and political orthodoxy, he added.

Knott declined to comment on specific actions taken by the committee, including any questions raised about potential nominees. He also declined to describe the "internal workings of the committee."

"We unanimously passed a motion that we weren't going to talk about the work of the committee, at least until the report is made public," he said.

"I'm not going to comment on what Brother Boswell said. I'm not going to talk about what was done within the committee, because I feel bound by the strictures of our vote."

Boswell cited his Southern Baptist record as evidence that he did not speak flippantly about the nominating committee. He noted he had near-perfect attendance at his local Baptist association's annual meeting for four decades; served his church as a deacon for 31 years and Sunday School and/or church training director for 27 years; was Louisiana Baptist Convention president; and has previously served on the SBC Executive Committee, Canada Study Committee, Committee on Committees and Committee on Boards.

"I go back, not to '79 in the struggle, but to 1929, when I was three months old and in a Southern Baptist church," he said. "I did not want to betray the confidence of the committee, because it was supposed to be kept quiet until convention time. But others (committee members from Texas and Florida) have released it, and I just simply said if they can, . . . then I can release this information."

Knott implied rumors circulating about possible nominations may have come from nominees themselves: "Every person that was nominated has heard from the Southern Baptist Executive Committee. As far as the (nominating) committee itself discussing these things publicly, it was my understanding that the committee would not talk."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

## CP hits \$68 million half through year

NASHVILLE (BP) — Southern Baptists' national Cooperative Program unified budget has topped \$68 million at the halfway mark of its 1987-88 fiscal year.

March receipts of \$11,200,144 pushed the budget's six-month total to \$68,062,905, announced Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee.

Cooperative Program funds come

from churches which channel the monies through their state conventions on to national and world causes. At the halfway point, the Cooperative Program's year-to-date receipts reflect 48.62 percent of the \$140 million annual goal.

The March receipts were 2.8 percent behind receipts for March of 1987; however, year-to-date receipts are 3.73 percent ahead of the first six months of 1986-87, Bennett reported.



## Rose Hill receives building aid

Rose Hill Church, Panola County, has received a check for \$2,000 from the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board to help with the construction of a new auditorium. The check was presented to the pastor, Reggie Herron, center, by Harrison Weger, right, Miss. Baptist Convention Board member, and Walter Ballard, left, director of missions. The funds were allocated from the Margaret Lackey Offering for State Missions. "The money was greatly needed and is certainly appreciated," Herron stated upon receiving the check. "This will help us move toward the completion date and the release of the mobile chapel in which the congregation now meets."

## Lolley to be nominated for SBC vice presidency

By Marv Knox

ASHEVILLE, N.C. (BP) — W. Randall Lolley will be nominated for first vice president of the Southern Baptist Convention during the SBC annual meeting this summer, a North Carolina pastor has announced.

Joh Hewitt, pastor of First Church, here said Lolley has agreed to be nominated for the post when the convention meets in San Antonio, June 14-16.

Lolley was elected pastor of First Church, Raleigh, April 6. Previously, he was president of Southeastern Seminary in Wake Forest, for 14 years.

Lolley announced his resignation as Southeastern Seminary president in November 1987. That move followed action by the conservative majority of seminary trustees to change the school's faculty-selection process to ensure that only people who profess biblical inerrancy can be named to the faculty.

Trustees voted March 14 to elect Lewis A. Drummond, a professor at Southern Seminary, to succeed Lolley.

Lolley's last day in office was March 31, and Drummond began April 1.

Lolley's resignation and move into

the pastorate frees him to be a candidate for SBC office, Hewitt told Baptist Press: "He is now free . . . to be able to serve in a different capacity for us. In a world of politicians, he is a statesman, and right now we need a statesman."

Hewitt said he has a letter from Lolley that says: "I would be honored if you choose to do it (make the vice presidential nomination). I would serve if elected."

The nomination is not part of a broader strategy orchestrated by SBC moderates, Hewitt added: "I have literally talked to no other person about this except Randall Lolley. If there is a strategy, I don't know about it."

"Randall Lolley is a trusted and proven Southern Baptist statesman. We have trusted his leadership at Southeastern Seminary. We can trust his vision for the future of the denomination."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

(Also contributing to this story were Dan Martin, Baptist Press news editor, and R.G. Puckett, editor of North Carolina's Biblical Recorder.)

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# Midwestern votes to affirm Peace Committee's report

By Brenda J. Sanders

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (BP) — In a meeting featuring personal testimony and affirmation, trustees of Midwestern Baptist Theological Seminary unanimously adopted a positive response to the Southern Baptist Peace Committee.

The 10-page formal response was issued during the trustees' spring meeting, April 11-12, at the Kansas City, Mo., school. It included statements of support for both the seminary administration and the faculty.

It lauded Midwestern President Milton Ferguson for his leadership among Southern Baptists on the issue of peace.

"We are happy to be able to say to Southern Baptists that the administration of Midwestern Seminary is in trustworthy hands," the response says. "Our president has been responsive to the concerns of Southern Baptists. He has been a leader in the process of reconciliation and peace."

We have every reason to believe that he will continue to lead in its implementation, as called for by Recommendation Five in the Peace Committee report."

Faculty members were commended for their initiative in voluntarily reaffirming the Baptist Faith and Message statement in September 1987.

The nine trustees who presented the response are members of the instruction committee, which had been given the task of studying the recommendations of the Peace Committee last October and were asked to recommend "appropriate action and response by the trustees" during the April meeting.

The instruction committee met twice to evaluate the Peace Committee report and to draft a response for the seminary's trustees. Doyle Smith of Great Bend, Kan., chairman of the instruction committee, said the group initially felt overwhelmed by the prospect of bringing a report that would provide a common direction for the seminary.

He noted the group did not begin to draft the response until their second gathering.

Other members of the instruction committee noted their first meeting was "almost like a revival." During that gathering, they shared their spiritual testimonies and developed a sense of togetherness, said Philip E. Lykes of Lakeland, Fla.

"We shared personal journeys with the Lord," Lykes said. "That was a very important experience. We heard each other's hearts. We established a sense of trust with each other, so that we were able to move on the task we had been assigned to do."

Instruction committee member Richard Adams of Festus, Mo., said he came to the first meeting believing the group faced an impossible task. He related he knew people on the committee disagreed with his personal theological views.

"I really expected strong differences of opinion," he noted. "But I saw something that I never thought was possible. I listened to these peo-

ple talk about where they were in their relationship with the Lord, and I began to see them in a whole new light."

Everyone in the group "began to listen to the heart, and not just to the words of what the others were saying. . . . That's the kind of spirit God gave us," he added.

So when the committee began drafting its response, Adams said other members of the group "made every effort to take my viewpoint into serious consideration. . . . I saw a willingness on their part to hear what I was saying and to try to understand, even if they didn't agree."

Several committee members said they would like to see this spirit of openness and trust expand to the seminary administration and faculty, and throughout the Southern Baptist Convention.

Committee member James W. Jones of Waterford, Mich., said: "We wish we could take the whole Southern Baptist Convention and put them in a small room just to talk to each other. This is impossible, but . . . the bottom line in trusting someone is getting to know them — not what you perceive them to be, but what they really are."

The committee suggested Midwestern trustees, administration and faculty explore ways they can get to know one another better and build trust. They indicated this might occur through small group interaction, retreat situations and/or personal fellowship.

Instruction committee Chairman Smith said: "We're at the point where there's no one document that any of us can sign and that will convince anybody of what we believe. . . . What we came to understand is if someone is under the control of the Lord, they can be trusted because the

Lord is trustworthy. That was imperative for us."

Trustees also unanimously approved a five-year institutional master plan, presented a motion affirming Ferguson on his 15th anniversary as president and approved a \$4.3 million budget.

Trustees voted unanimously on all business matters and issues.

The long-range action plan, titled "Challenge '93 — And Beyond," is scheduled to begin with the 1988-1989 school year and will conclude in 1992-1993.

"We are rooted in the worth of persons," Ferguson noted. "We are validated by the work of Christ — his life, death and resurrection — which we believe reveals to us the character and the purpose of the living God. That's the bottom line of who we are and who we ought to be."

Midwestern is committed to increasing its effectiveness in meeting the ministry needs of Southern Baptists, Ferguson said. One goal indicates the seminary will seek "to award degrees to a minimum of 150 graduates annually by 1993 in order to increase its contribution to the denominational mission and ministry of Southern Baptists by a factor of 50 percent during the next five years."

In other action trustees:

— Recognized outgoing trustee Kermit D. McGregor of Jackson, Miss.

— Elected officers — J. Truett Gannon of Stone Mountain, Ga., to a second term as chairman; Graydon K. Kitchens of Minden, La., to a second term as first vice chairman; Kerry G. Powell of Little Rock, Ark., to a second term as second vice president; and Melvin M. Hill Sr. of Lee's Summit, Mo., to a first term as secretary-treasurer.



Kermit D. McGregor (center) of The Baptist Children's Village staff in Jackson, receives words of praise from J. Truett Gannon (left) of Stone Mountain, Ga., and Milton Ferguson (right), president of Midwestern Seminary, during a trustee dinner. McGregor, a former chairman of the trustees, recently completed his final term of service with that group.

## Southern moves to resolve trustee-election issue

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — Trustees of Southern Seminary have moved to consummate the election of new seminary trustees more quickly, thereby averting future rumors that new members would not be accepted on the trustee board.

Meeting April 11-13 at the seminary campus here, they voted unanimously to hold an adjourned session of the board in San Antonio, Texas, following the 1988 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting, in order to promptly elect new trustees nominated by the convention.

Because of provisions in the seminary's charter, the school's board elects new trustees at its annual meeting in April, following by 10 months the SBC annual meeting the previous June.

Reports had circulated before this year's meeting that some trustees planned to recommend the board reject trustees elected at the 1987 SBC meeting and perhaps even attempt to "pull out" of the convention.

Seminary President Roy L. Honeycutt said the rumors were "totally unjustified" and had been generated by a mass mailing of information taken from minutes of the board's executive committee.

In other actions, trustees:

— Adopted a 1988-89 operating budget of \$14.8 million, a 2.7 percent increase over the previous year. The budget includes no provisions for salary increases for faculty and staff.

— Approved a phased construction plan for the seminary's \$12.6 million Campus Center Complex, with each phase contingent upon funds being in hand or committed to be received

before completion of the project. The seminary hopes to break ground on the initial phase in the next few months.

— Voted to present the seminary's E.Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award to Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the Southern Baptist Woman's Missionary Union. The award is the seminary's highest honor.

— Elected officers for 1988-89. Alton Butler, pastor of Myrtle Grove Baptist Church, Pensacola, Fla., was elected chairman, succeeding Perry Webb, recently retired pastor of First Baptist Church, Baton Rouge, La. William W. Causey, pastor of Parkway Church, Jackson, Miss., was elected second vice chairman, succeeding George W. Steincross, pastor of Second Baptist Church, Liberty, Mo. Re-elected to second one-year terms were Sam McMahon Jr., chairman of the board, Southeast Commercial Corp., Charlotte, N.C., first vice chairman; and Fred Pfannenschmidt of Gibson/Pfannenschmidt Realtors, Louisville, secretary.

— Approved several increases in fees and charges for 1988-89, including a five percent increase in rental charges for campus housing and a \$25 increase in student matriculation fees to \$400 per semester for 1989-90.

In other personnel decisions, trustees promoted David E. Garland from associate professor to professor of New Testament interpretation and granted tenure to six other faculty members. Two former faculty members were elected to professor emeritus positions — Dale Moody in theology and Findley Edge in Christian education.

## Golden Gate requests \$7.8 million endowment

By Eddy Oliver and Herb Hollinger

MILL VALLEY, Calif. (BP) — Golden Gate Baptist Theological Seminary trustees have appealed to the Southern Baptist Executive Committee for \$7.8 million in endowment.

In the spring meeting April 11-12 on the Mill Valley, Calif., campus, they also adopted a report to the Southern Baptist Peace Committee.

The Executive Committee had requested Golden Gate to present a documented request for a special allocation over and above the present formula for seminary funding. That request is for an allocation from the convention's Cooperative Program unified budget, spread over a five-year period.

In submitting the resolution board Chairman J. Clarke Johnson of Phoenix, Ariz., said, "We believe our research clearly substantiates the need for additional funds and reflects the attitude of governmental and other agencies to this similar problem

in their San Francisco operations."

Trustees prepared a report to the Peace Committee in response to the committee's statement, approved by messengers to the SBC annual meeting last summer, which called on them to "determine the theological position" of administration and faculty members in light of the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

The report states that every person teaching at Golden Gate has been asked to sign a statement to "teach in accord with and not contrary to the 1963 Baptist Faith and Message Statement." Since 1978, trustees also have signed a document that indicates they will operate the seminary in the same manner.

Additionally the report, which was adopted with one dissenting vote, details other activities which reflect hiring policies and affirms the 1986

(Continued on page 13)

## 15 - Passenger Church Vans

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Anna Lea McGehee of Liberty shows the quilt which she both made and quilted.

## Mrs. McGehee uses variety in making quilt, single-handed

Anna Lea McGehee, member of Liberty Church at Liberty and its WMU, has both made and quilted a WMU centennial quilt, all by herself. She bought the quilt kit, but added some additional fabric which she bought. Also, her quilt is different in that she used a variety of means of making the individual squares — counted cross stitch, embroidery, satin stitch, artex painting, and applique.

She used a typewriter to make

words on the certificate on one square. She used "iron on" numbers for the dates, and also for some words on the sides of the quilt. With a pen, she drew the Birmingham WMU building and also the quilting design on the border.

Mrs. McGehee, native of Amite County, is married to Clinton McGehee, who is retired. An artist, she has also painted designs on other quilts, including ones of state birds and flowers.

**Mr. and Mrs. T. H. Maxwell** will observe their 60th anniversary on May 6. They now live in Summit and are members of First Church. He served as pastor of Fannin Church, Rankin Association, before his retirement. He also served churches in Pike Association after his retirement.

The William Carey College Board of Trustees has named **Barbara Johnson** acting dean of the School of Nursing effective June 1. The appointment was made when the Board accepted the resignation of Joan McConnell as dean of the School of Nursing, located at Southern Baptist Hospital in New Orleans, La.

Johnson serves as counselor for nursing students at the Hattiesburg Campus where most preliminary coursework is done in the nursing program. She also coordinates continuing education programs in nursing at Carey.

The new dean is a native of England. She holds a diploma in education from Padgate Training College, bachelor's and master's degrees in nursing from the University of Florida, and the doctor of education degree in education administration from the University of Southern Mississippi.

**W. Levon Moore**, Kosciusko, has accepted the call of East End Church, Columbus, as interim pastor. Moore served as director of missions, Attala Association, from 1974-1985. He retired December 31, 1985.

Moore is active with the senior adult ministry and writes for convention periodicals. He will have Sunday School lessons in the Convention Uniform Series for March and April of 1989. He also serves as a trustee of Southern Seminary.

Moore is married to Pauline Rone

Moore who serves as organist of First Church, Kosciusko.

**Tony Henry** has resigned as pastor of Laurel Hill Church (Neshoba). He is available for supply and revivals. Henry can be reached at P.O. Box 276, Walnut Grove, MS 39189, or phone 253-2232.

**Cowan Road Church**, Gulf Coast, has changed the status of Bill Metcalf from part time to full time as minister of music and youth.

## Senior Adult Corner

**Southside Church**, Greenville, will observe Senior Adult Day Sunday, May 1. The preacher for both services will be Phil Edge, chaplain at Delta Medical Center, and a member of Southside. Edge is the only Southern Baptist minister known to have been licensed and ordained to do the special work of an evangelist. At 81, Edge is still active in the ministry.

The choir for the day will be composed of senior adults of the church. Earl Ezell is pastor.

Four hundred and seventeen senior adults participated in Area IV Enrichment Conference at Lake Tiak O'Khata on April 5th. W. Levon Moore, area consultant, Kosciusko; Tommy Jarrett, pastor of First Church, Macon; Randy Weeks, minister of music, East End Church, Columbus; Bob Gray, minister of music and senior adults, First Church, West Point; Lora Warrington, Parkway Church, Kosciusko; Mrs. W. Levon Moore, First, Kosciusko; and J. Clark Hensley, senior adult consultant,

Jackson, constituted the program personnel.

Thirty-eight of those who attended were over 80; the oldest person present was 93. Twenty-nine churches from 11 associations were present.

**Jefferson Davis Association**: senior adult revival: May 2-3-4; Joe Tuten, Jackson, evangelist; Genter Stephens, New Orleans, music; 10 a.m.; dinner on grounds, Wed. noon; Tom Myers, Prentiss Association senior adult director; Ken Stringer, director of missions.

## Names in the news

### Jimmy Yarbrough retires, lives at Monticello

After forty years in the ministry as an active pastor, Jimmy Yarbrough retired the first of the year. "Bro. Jimmy," as he is called by friends, was called to preach and ordained in 1948 by the Van Winkle Church in Jackson.



**Yarbrough**

He has served as pastor of churches in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Texas and preached in many areas of the U.S.A.

His first wife of 36 years, the former Frances Roberts, died in 1977. He married the widow of Charles Pringle, one of the men called to preach under his ministry. The Yarbroughs have seven children and twelve grandchildren. They recently purchased a home in Monticello, at 1212 Stormo Lane.

Yarbrough is presently serving as interim pastor at Pearlhaven Church, Brookhaven. Though retired, he says he would like to remain active and used by the Lord to conduct revivals and Bible conferences. His telephone is 601-587-0275.

### Pastor's wife dies

Services for Carol Ann Miller Kay of Calhoun City were held March 5 at First Baptist Church, Calhoun City, where her husband, Anthony Kay, is pastor. John Flowers and Roy Wilson officiated.

**Mrs. Kay**, 46, died March 4 at Baptist Memorial Central Hospital, Memphis, after an illness of several months. She was born in Vicksburg, the daughter of J. Wesley and Rosa Mae Gaston Miller.

At First Church, Calhoun City, she had served as Sunday School teacher, Mission Friends leader, and preschool choir director. She was a graduate of University of Mississippi, and had attended Mississippi College, Carson-Newman College, and New Orleans Seminary.

Mrs. Kay had been employed as a migrant teacher in Calhoun City and was the recipient of the Child Service Award for 1987 in the county for her contribution to child development.

Survivors include her husband; a daughter, Kathryn Ann Langworthy of Dallas; a son, Landry Kay of Calhoun City; her mother, of Rolling Fork; three sisters; and two brothers.

"All change is not growth, as all movement is not forward."

— ELLEN GLASGOW

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— JANE BRYANT QUINN

# Just for the Record



**Griffin Street Church, Moss Point**, recently held a GA and Actees Recognition Service. GAs pictured, left to right (front row) are Leasa Harrell, Karla Kimmons, Angie Powell, Krista Feinberg, and Cary Watts; (back row) Peggy Feinberg, GA



leader, Lucille McCary, WMU director, and Euna Rogers, WMU. Actees pictured (front row) are Billie Kay Ford, Leslie Dyess, Wendi Nettles, and Tonya Slater; (back row) Susan Dees, Acteen leader, Rose Harris, and Leigh Harrell.



**Calvary Church, West Point**, has bought a new travel coach for use by church groups. The church has an active and mobile senior adult group, "The Joy Club." The youth of the church will travel to Glorieta this summer, as well as the church benefiting from other planned trips. Pictured are some of those instrumental in planning for and buying the bus. Left to right: Dewel Brasher, Ralph Griffin, Walter Frederick, pastor, Jim Young, associate pastor, A. R. Parks, Larry McWhorter, salesman, from Vickery Chevrolet, Robert Stafford, Jay Brantley, Tom Peeples, Jo Peeples, and Lucille Smith.



A note burning service recently concluded a weekend of praise celebration at **Delay Church in Lafayette Association**. The celebration began with a church-wide fish fry.

The burning of the note fulfilled a church goal to pay off a 15-year loan in just 10 years. The sanctuary had been built in 1977 for a total cost of material of \$34,000 and is now valued at \$100,000. The history of the 44 year old church was told through interviews with the charter members. Angie Booker of the University of Mississippi was guest soloist. Anton C. Uth, Sr., is pastor.

The deacons pictured (left to right) are Riley Melton, Jack Hollowell, Quinton Yarbrough, and Floyd James.



The Woman's Missionary Union of Harmontown Church has completed a centennial quilt which will be displayed at the centennial celebration in Richmond, Virginia, May 13-15. Mrs. Ervia Lena Kuehn coordinated the project; Mrs. Peggy Stubbs is WMU director; Trent F. Grubbs is pastor.

Thursday, April 28, 1988

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 13

## Mississippi Baptist activities

May 1	Senior Adult Day (Fam. Min.-CT Emphasis)
May 2	WMU Special Day & Edwina Robinson Offering (WMU Emphasis)
May 3	Senior Adult Choir Festival; Daniel Memorial BC, Jackson; 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m. (CM)
May 5	Mississippi Baptist Medical-Dental Fellowship Meeting; FBC, Jackson; 6:15-9 p.m. (BRO)
May 6-7	Chaplains Retreat; Gulfshore Assembly; 5 p.m., 6th-3 p.m., 7th (CoMi)

## Revival dates

**Castlewoods**, 175 Stonecastle Dr. (Rankin): May 1-4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Billy Joe Pearce, pastor, Benton, La., evangelist; Mr. and Mrs. Richard Sullivan, First, Flowood, music; Fred Fowler, pastor.

**Cliff Temple, Natchez (Adams)**: May 6-8; John Hiron, Sandhurst, England, evangelist; Steve Stroebek, Cliff Temple, music; services, Fri. and Sat., 7 p.m.; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

**High Hill, Philadelphia**: May 1-6; John Walker, pastor, First, Lucedale, preaching; Stanley Costilow, pastor, New Harmony, Neshoba County, leading the singing. Paul H. Leber, pastor.

**New Liberty, Vardaman (Calhoun)**: May 1-6; Jim Coleman, pastor, Arbor, Pell City, Ala., evangelist; Jim Keyser, minister of music, First, Calhoun City, music; services, Sunday, 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7:30 p.m.; Jerry W. Lowery, pastor.

**Carmel, Monticello**: May 2-5; services, 10:30 a.m. and 7:30 p.m. Sammy J. McDonald, pastor, evangelist; Chris Turnage, minister of music, Oakvale, Oakvale, music.

**First, Lake**: May 1-6; 10 a.m. and 7 p.m., Sunday; 7:30 p.m. weeknights; Jerry Barlow, evangelist; Tommy Anderson, music; Ken McLemore, pastor.

**Cary (Sharkey)**: May 1; morning services, 10:30 a.m. followed by dinner and afternoon services; David Sutherland, speaker; John Searcy, pastor; Jimmy Priddy, music.

**Union (Rankin)**: May 1; begins at 10:45 a.m.; lunch served at noon; singing in the afternoon; Vernal Daniels, pastor.

**South 28th Avenue, Hattiesburg**: May 1; 9:45, Sunday School, 11, worship services, lunch served in Family Life Center; adult choir will present, All Day Singin' with Dinner On The Ground, 1:30; Gibbie McMillan, pastor.

## Golden Gate asks endowment

(Continued from page 11)  
Glorieta Statement by both the faculty and trustees.

In other matters, Golden Gate's board:

— Re-elected current board officers to a second term. They are Clark

Johnson, pastor of Royal Palms Baptist Church in Phoenix, Ariz., chairman; Herman Wooten, director of missions for Redwood Empire Association in Vallejo, Calif., vice chairman; and Mal Utley, pastor, Lexington Park Baptist Church, Lexington Park, Md., secretary.

**Oakdale (Rankin)**: May 1-4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Dean Register, First, Gulfport, evangelist; L. Graham Smith, music; Alan Kilgore, pastor.

**Petal-Harvey, Petal**: May 1-4; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., noon luncheon and 7:30 p.m.; Fred E. Robertson, Bowmar Ave., Vicksburg, evangelist; Dan T. Guest, Bowmar Ave., Vicksburg, music evangelist; Gerald P. Buckley, pastor.

**Briarwood, Meridian, Hillview Drive**: May 1-4; Jimmy Garrard, Meridian, evangelist; Susan Davis, Meridian, music director; special music by Benny Eggler and Byron McMullen, Meridian; services Sunday 10:45 a.m. and 7 p.m., Mon.-Wed. 7 p.m.; Thomas Wood, pastor.

**Barefoot Springs, Pelahatchie**: revival — homecoming, May 1-6; Sunday, 11 a.m., dinner on the grounds, music by The Revelations; no services Sunday evening; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Dan Watts, pastor, Raymond Road, Jackson, evangelist; Tal Vardaman, minister of music, Barefoot Springs, music; Grant McElveen, pastor.

## Revival results

**New Hope (Leake)**: April 15-17; Eddie Pilgrim, Pearl Hill (Leake), evangelist; Jimmy Young, pastor; five candidates for baptism (three by profession of faith and two from other denominations).

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# SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

## Obedience: The higher standard of expectation

By M. Dean Register

Reportedly, after Augustine was converted, he was walking down a street in Milan, Italy, when he was accosted by a prostitute whom he had known. She called him seductively, but he kept on walking. "Augustine," she called again, "It is I!" Without slowing down, he replied, "Yes, but it is no longer I." A change had occurred and Augustine demonstrated a new obedience.

Register The Apostle Paul describes this obedience in the sixth chapter of Romans. Against a backdrop of guilt and grace he affirms that a Christian has been freed from slavery to sin and is called to a life of loyalty to Christ. Our freedom, however, is not a license to sin. Some people mistakenly think that the more you sin the more the grace of God applies.

Paul counters this by arguing that grace is



### LIFE AND WORK

not conditional upon sin and he asks, "How can we who died to sin still live in it?" (Rom. 6:2). The answer, of course, is that we cannot. Union with Christ involves separation from the continuation in sin and makes it incongruous for a person to pursue the pleasures of wrong doing.

Obedience requires a negation of the old lifestyle and an active practice of positive loyalty. In Romans 6:12-13 two negative commands are expressed: (1) do not let sin reign in your mortal body and (2) do not continue to offer the members of your body as instruments of unrighteousness. A believer must refuse to capitulate to the call of lustful gratification. He has a new Sovereign to whom he yields himself. In a positive sense Paul exhorts a believer to present himself to God as one "alive from the dead" who offers his body as a tool of righteousness to God. High standards are expected of Christians.

Many high school and college students are familiar with the name Edith Hamilton. She was a meticulous historian and author of numerous studies in Roman and Greek mythology. When she was only seven years old she mastered the Latin language. By the time she was thirteen she had mastered Greek sufficiently to read Plato's Dialogues in the original. Elton Trueblood, an admirer of Hamilton, said she achieved so much in her life because she was challenged by "high standards of expectation." Indeed, as Christians we would achieve more, too, if we endeavored to live on the higher level instead of crawling on the lower level of compromise and indifference.

When we consent to anything less than obedience to Christ we engage in a voluntary slavery, says Paul. The slavery metaphor is a graphic picture of bondage (Rom. 6:16-23). People are slaves to whatever power they obey. In a culture that champions self-sufficiency and freedom, it is startling for us to realize how we are chained to our own sins.

Paul explains that a person can have sin as

a master or righteousness as a master. Loyalty to one will necessarily involve disloyalty to the other. Obedience is the real test of our profession. Whether we like it or not usaved persons receive their impression of Christ most often by the lifestyle Christians reveal. Therefore, it is incumbent upon us to embrace Christ as Savior to represent him obediently before a watching world.

Paul always has a way of simplifying a complex issue, and in Romans 6:23 he makes a summary statement in a succinct style: "For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord."

The term "wages" refers to a soldier's pay. Sin pays its soldiers the wage of death, but God in Christ freely offers life, eternal life. The issue is clear: the free gift of eternal life — a gift for which we could not work to attain — is a gift that should summon every believer to a life of obedience as an expression of deepest gratitude.

M. Dean Register is pastor, First, Gulfport.

## Right motives, right priorities: God's kingdom first

By Gayle Alexander

Matthew 6:1-34

Jesus is contrasting the righteous living he expected with the hypocrisy of the scribes and Pharisees. "When you practice your piety" (6:1) introduces four illustrations revealing that contrast. The first illustration is that of charitable giving (6:2). God is not impressed by religious acts designed for that purpose. Hypocrites translates a word for play actors who pretend to be someone they

Alexander are not. "They have their reward (a word for receipt) in full" (6:2). To perform for the praise of men, one may succeed, but that is the most for which he can hope. Giving secretly gains God's approval.

The second illustration deals with one's motives in prayer (6:5-16). "Standing in the synagogues" (6:5) was the usual manner and place for prayer and is not condemned, but the intent of one who claimed that the hour of prayer caught him in a prominent place and loved such display was condemned. Public



### BIBLE BOOK

prayer is not denounced, for Jesus prayed publicly (Luke 10:21-22), but vain empty display in prayer is denounced.

Sincere repetition (26:39, 42, 44) is one thing, but to seek through prayer to compel God to do one's bidding is likened to the babbling of pagans. Neither does prayer inform God (6:8). Then why pray? It is not that God needs to be asked as much as it is that we need to ask; to acknowledge dependency, strengthen faith, be changed, and also, to have communion.

The model prayer is amazing in its scope and brevity. The first three petitions concern God and his kingdom's work. The last four concern man and his needs. Jesus's favorite term for God was Father. Abba in this text is a child's name for dad, indicating intimate relationship. The Father is also sovereign and hence to be hallowed or reverenced. Heaven, indicating God's transcendence, is used to balance with Abba, indicating God's nearness. "Thy kingdom come" is the increasing subjugation to his rule on earth. "Thy will be done" is for us to allow God to make daily decisions in our lives. Jesus

never said, nor did, anything apart from the perfect will of God. All decisions, however small, should be his to make. If we recoil at the idea of Jesus making all of our daily decisions, then would we recoil at the next petition of his providing our daily needs? He is just as concerned about one as he is the other.

The request for forgiveness is balanced with the need to forgive. To receive forgiveness is to forgive. Forgiveness is by God's grace and is based on Christ's atonement. It is inconsistent with God's grace and forgiveness if we do not forgive others.

There is a future plea that God in his providence would spare the believer from needless temptations. This is to avoid the pride of "test me to prove how strong I am." The doxology is modeled on I Chronicles 29:11. Christ is not being arbitrary in verse 14 and 15, of forgiving us conditional upon our forgiveness of others. If one has an unforgiving spirit, his spirit is such that he is also incapable of receiving the forgiveness of God. An unforgiving spirit is not able to make confession. One must be free to forgive if he is free to receive. A closed door blocks from both sides.

Fasting was required in Mosaic law only once

annually during the day of atonement (Leviticus 16:29). Pharisaism added two fasts weekly and they became public displays of piety. But fasting that requires spectators is merely acting. True fasting, the devoting of all one's energies to prayer and meditation, should be associated with great spiritual concerns, needs, or crises in a person's life.

The last illustration is in regard to priorities in material possessions. The warnings here are twofold: (1) earthly treasures are always fleeting and perishable; (2) one shares the fate of that to which he gives his heart. There is no security in possessions for they are just subject to moth, rust, and thievery. To store up treasures in heaven means one's focus is on righteousness in the kingdom. The impossibility of a bondslave serving two masters is a graphic illustration of one's attitude toward possession.

Deliverance from allowing possessions to be one's master and deliverance from anxiety is found in placing the kingdom of God first in one's life (6:33). The seeking is to be continuous and the provisions of God are also continuous.

Gayle Alexander is pastor, First, Tupelo.

## God's great high priest — Jesus, our mediator

By Jimmy G. McGee

Hebrews 4:14-16; 6:19-20; 7:21-28

Jesus is our high priest. He is the good news of the gospel. By his work on the cross, he has reconciled us who believe to the Father. He has mediated on our behalf a new and better covenant in his blood. He ever intercedes on our behalf. Because of this, we believers can come boldly to his throne of grace and find mercy and grace to help in time of need.

A priest is one who acts on behalf of man in relation to God. Two functions were clear to the Levitical priesthood. (1) A priest represents God to the people. He is symbolic of God's presence and he announces God's blessings upon the people. (2) A priest represents the people to God. He receives from the people and offers sacrifice on their behalf. Once a year the high priest entered the holy of holies on the Day of Atonement to offer sacrifice for the sins of the people. Jesus perfectly satisfies the priestly function. He himself is the "exact image" of the Father and he once for all offered up himself



### UNIFORM

as the perfect sacrifice for the atonement of sin. Now he ever lives to make intercession for believers.

The writer of Hebrews skillfully links Jesus to the Old Testament message of God. Already he has shown that Jesus, by virtue of his person, is better than the angels, the prophets, and Moses. Those who accepted God's message through the angels, prophets, and Moses ought to accept the message of Jesus, God's Son. Now the writer identifies Jesus as our great high priest.

Three times the writer quotes from Psalm 110:4, "You are a priest forever according to the order of the Melchizedek" (Hebrews 5:6; 6:17,20). The Jews accepted Psalm 110 as messianic. Jesus referred to it in appealing to the Jews to recognize him as God's Son (Matthew 22:44). Here in Hebrews, the writer attributes the prophecy to Jesus and shows its significance.

Melchizedek is a shadowy figure of Genesis. Mentioned only once, he appears as the king of Salem, the priest of the most high God (Genesis

14:18). He blessed Abraham and received a tithe from Abraham. Melchizedek is one of a kind. His unusual appearance in history is prophetic. The writer of Hebrews insightfully describes him as "without father, without mother, without genealogy, having neither beginning of days nor end of life, but made like the Son of God" (7:3). Deductively it is said that Melchizedek is greater than Abraham in that he blesses Abraham, and Abraham gave tithes to him. In time, he is before the Aaronic priesthood and is not identified with the Levitical priests. Jesus, like Melchizedek, is greater than Abraham and is not a descendant of Levi.

Jesus stands outside of and above the Levitical priesthood. The priests of the law were temporary in service. Like other men, they were always dying. At best, the animal sacrifices they offered could never remove sins. Jesus is God's appointed priest forever, and in one sacrifice he removed sin forever. Jesus became our high priest when he did not stay dead!

Christianity and Judaism have roots in the same Old Covenant of God. Christianity supersedes Judaism and is far superior in every way. The one who makes the differences

and bridges the gap between the Old and New Covenant is Jesus Christ. As our great high priest, Jesus is our salvation and eternal hope. Believers have good reason and incentive to hold fast the profession in Christ.

Jesus fulfills the promise of God and fleshes out the shadows of the Old Covenant. He is the guarantee of a better covenant and he is able to save to the uttermost those who come to God through him. He ever lives to make intercession for believers.

Jesus understands what it is like to be a man. He entered into human life with its limitations and surroundings. He was touched by human infirmities and was sensitive to our hurts and needs. He was tempted in all points like us, yet he sinned not. Other men are no better than we in overcoming sin. Jesus was victorious over sin in life and death, and he can help us.

Believers can come to him "boldly" with the assurance of his love and understanding and get mercy and find grace to help. Mercy is God's holding back on the painful consequences we deserve. Grace is God's gift of undeserved favor. He intervenes in our experiences and really helps us to live the Christian life. Call upon him in faith.

Jimmy McGee is pastor, First, Grenada.



THE ALAMO — Messengers to the annual meeting of the Southern Baptist Convention, June 14-16, in San Antonio will be near the Alamo, the shrine of Texas Liberty. In 1836, during the war for Texas independence, the Alamo was the scene of one of the most heroic events in the history of our nation. (Photo courtesy of the San Antonio Convention and Visitors Bureau.)

## Church musicians to 'tune hearts'

SAN ANTONIO, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptist church musicians will focus on the music of their souls this summer.

"Tune Your Hearts . . . That All May Hear" will be the theme for the Southern Baptist Church Music Conference at Castle Hills First Church here June 11-13. The event will be held immediately prior to the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in the Alamo City.

"From diverse backgrounds and contrasting concerns, we come together once a year to confer and to harmonize as we engage in fellowship and common worship of our one Lord, whom we all serve according to our particular callings and gifts," said conference President Hugh T. McElrath.

The San Antonio conference will include 10 lectures, panel discussions or

seminars; eight choral performances, four instrumental performances; three sermons; two business sessions; and a choral reading, according to a program released by McElrath, professor of church music at Southern Seminary.

The conference has three major purposes, he said, citing "the strengthening of membership through spiritual and musical renewal; the encouragement of Christian fellowship and the celebration of unity in diversity; and the fostering of free and unbiased exchange of information and perspectives on all phases of church music ministry."

Musicians who wish to join the conference should contact Mary June Tabor, the organization's secretary/treasurer, at 1141 N. Robinson, Oklahoma City, Okla. 73103.

## Glorieta conference will offer seniors Bible study

GLORIETA, N.M. — Broadman author Harold E. Dye will be the featured speaker and Bible study leader at the Land of Enchantment Bible Conference May 16-21 at Glorieta Baptist Conference Center.

The conference for senior adults and their leaders is sponsored by the senior adult section of the Baptist Sunday School Board's family ministry department.

Dye, who lives in San Jose, Calif., has been a pastor in churches in New Mexico and California and served as editor of the *Baptist New Mexican*, state paper of the Baptist Convention of New Mexico.

Dye is replacing Herschel Hobbs, pastor emeritus of First Baptist Church, Oklahoma City, as featured speaker because Hobbs was unable to

attend the conference, according to Horace Kerr, director of the annual spring event.

Jimmy Cutrell, a former Mississippian, now minister of music, First Baptist Church, Gainesville, Ga., and Jan Rodgers, organist, Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson, Miss., will serve as the musical team for the event.

In addition to Bible study and worship, the Land of Enchantment conference offers senior adults and leaders a chance to choose three of four professionally conducted day-long tours in the Sangre de Cristo mountain region near Santa Fe, N.M.

For additional information, write or call the family ministry department, 127 Ninth Ave. N., Nashville, Tenn. 37234, (615) 251-2280.

## Pennies send Bibles to Russia

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — Southern Baptists have opened their hearts and wallets to help send 100,000 Bibles to the Soviet Union.

From piggy-bank pennies and \$5 checks penned in arthritic scrawl to large foundation, individual, church and organizational donations, gifts have arrived by the dozen since last year.

The Bibles for Russia project has

captured the imagination of Baptists worldwide, said Archie Goldie of the Baptist World Alliance.

The BWA agreed to raise \$250,000 through an international effort as its share of \$500,000 needed to produce and deliver the Bibles. United Bible Societies agreed to supply the other \$250,000.

BWA has received more than \$207,000 in donations. Bible production

is going ahead as scheduled. "We are going on faith that the rest (of the money) will come in," said Goldie.

Brotherhood Commission President James Smith commented on the appropriateness of naming the Bibles for Russia project for Owen Cooper. The layman and former Southern Baptist Convention president was involved in a Books-for-the-World project at the time of his death.

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